

GI

GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

£5.20 JUNE 2009

Inside...

FOCUS ON FUNGICIDES

Dr Terry Mabbett gets technical

The Unseen Irrigation System

IRRIGATION MATTERS UNCOVERED

Featured

Horses (and Tennis) for Courses

Epsom and Wimbledon
under the radar

Pretty as a Picture

Golf
Course
Feature

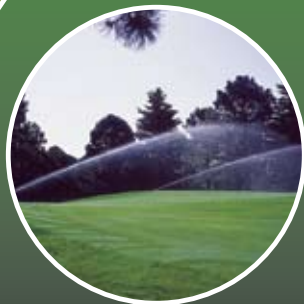
Meon Valley, the subject of last year's
Photographic competition winning picture





Your Turf will only Play as Well as the Irrigation System Allows it to!

Does your current irrigation system enable you to get the best out of your turf? Topturf Irrigation, the UK and Europe's leading specialist irrigation company, believe in using only the best products for the job in hand. Through our partnership we can now offer **Hunter** irrigation products for our systems. Giving you the highest standards and value for money.



Topturf Irrigation, in partnership with Hunter and Revaho.



BIGGA



President
Sir Michael Bonallack,
OBE

Board of Management
Chairman – Peter Todd
Vice Chairman
Paul Worster
Past Chairman
Kenny Mackay

Board Members

Jeff Mills, Gary Cunningham, Archie Dunn, Ian Willett, Tony Smith, Elliott Small, Mark Dobell

Chief Executive

John Pemberton
john@bigga.co.uk

Head of Learning & Development

Sami Collins
sami@bigga.co.uk

Head of Membership Department

Tracey Maddison
traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk

Contact Us

BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Aline, York, YO61 1UF
reception@bigga.co.uk
www.bigga.org.uk
Tel – 01347 833800 | Fax – 01347 833801

Greenkeeper International

The official monthly magazine of the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association

Editorial

Communications Manager / Editor

Scott MacCallum
Tel – 01347 833800 Fax – 01347 833801
scott@bigga.co.uk



Assistant Editor
Melissa Jones
Tel – 01347 833800
Fax – 01347 833801
melissa@bigga.co.uk



Design
Design and Production Editor
Tom Campbell
Tel – 01347 833800
Fax – 01347 833801
tom@bigga.co.uk



Advertising
Sales Executive
Kirstin Smith
Tel – 01347 833800
Fax – 01347 833802
kirstin@bigga.co.uk

Printing

Warners Midlands Plc, The Maltings, Manor Lane, Bourne, Lincolnshire PE10 9PH
Tel – 01778 391000 | Fax – 01778 394269

Contents may not be reprinted or otherwise reproduced without written permission. Return postage must accompany all materials submitted if return is requested. No responsibility can be assumed for unsolicited materials. The right is reserved to edit submissions before publication. Although every care will be taken, no responsibility is accepted for loss of manuscripts, photographs or artwork. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Association, and no responsibility is accepted for such content, advertising or product information that may appear. Circulation is by subscription. Subscription rate: UK £50 per year, Europe and Eire £65, Rest of the World £95. The magazine is also distributed to BIGGA members, golf clubs, local authorities, the turf industry, libraries and central government.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



What's good for the world is good for the business.

ISSN: 0961-6977

© 2009 British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association

WELCOME FROM THE EDITOR



Hope the Sun Shines on our New Look

Your June issue of Greenkeeper International is the first to hit your doormat with its new look. Hopefully you will like the design and the new feature ideas that are included.

On a personal note I have enjoyed taking on board the feedback we have had over the last few months and trying to incorporate those into a workable monthly magazine. What came out of it was a desire to provide more technical content, and we have done that with the feature that is sponsored by the Golden and Silver Key Development Fund, and more content for younger greenkeepers. To accommodate this wish we have brought back the Assistant Profile and are continuing to develop our recently-introduced Quick Guides.

Greg Evans, of Ealing Golf Club, is the first man to take his place on Greenkeeper International's very own Soapbox, which will be a monthly column aimed at giving a guest writer the opportunity of talking on a subject about which he or she is particularly passionate. This feature will be open to anyone and if you feel you have something you'd like to say, please get in touch with me and we'll discuss what you'd like to write about.

And there will be some other new ideas still to come on stream over the next few months, including a regular Guest Sport and, hopefully, a feature which allows Course Managers to be a little more open and candid about the problems they are facing at their clubs and the measures they are adopting to cope.

A lot of hard work has gone into this new look and I hope you will feel that it has been time and effort well spent.

On now to a topic we all like to discuss – the weather.

Hopefully, the much-heralded glorious summer will have arrived by now and we will be seeing a surge in the amount of golf being played across the country. With the pound weak against the dollar and, even more so, against the Euro, we are paying through the nose for foreign holidays and imported goods, but it should make visiting the UK pretty attractive to our overseas visitors and with the sun splitting the skies it would be great to see bookings up.

Golf enjoys its highest profile around this time of the year. We've just had three high profile UK tournaments - at The Wentworth Club, where Chris Kennedy chalked up yet another PGA Championship; The London Club, where our National Chairman, Peter Todd, prepared his course for the European Open, and Celtic Manor and the Wales Open, where Jim McKenzie continued his fine-tuning for next year's Ryder Cup.

All three Course Managers do the greenkeeping profession, and indeed golf, great credit and seeing top professionals playing great golf on great, magnificently prepared, golf courses can do nothing but good for the game – particularly if it is played in polo shirts and not waterproofs!

I hope you enjoy your new look magazine and please feel free to let me know your thoughts on it. We do listen to your views and try to produce an interesting, informative magazine on the back of it.

Scott MacCallum
Editor



REGULARS

- 6 **Newsdesk**
- 11 **Chairman's Word**
- 12 **GTC**
- 13 **Learning and Development**
- 14 **Industry Update**
- 42 **New Products**
- 45 **Around the Green**
- 51 **Chief Executive's Column**
- 52 **Membership**
- 53 **Assistant Profile**
- 53 **What's your Number?**
- 54 **Quick Guide to... Recycling**
- 55 **In the Shed - Puzzle Page**
- 60 **Human Resources**
- 61 **Letters**
- 62 **Soapbox – Greg Evans**



Pretty as a Picture

Scott MacCallum visits **Meon Valley**, the subject of last year's Photographic competition winning picture, and discovers a hotel golf complex with a members' club feel

Let's face it we are all guilty of stereotyping. Scots are all tight-fisted; southerners are all softies; the Welsh all sing and are descended from coal miners, while the Irish all come up a bit short when it comes to grey matter. We all know it's nonsense, but the myth still gets perpetuated on a daily basis.

It also exists in golf. The accepted mantra is that members' clubs are invariably cosy and stuffy with visitors treated as a barely tolerated, but necessary, evil, while proprietary clubs and hotel courses on the other hand have wide fairways, short rough and pile as many people through as can humanly be accommodated.

• We all know that while there is perhaps an element of truth in it there are many golf venues which don't fit into that stereotypical mould.

One such is Marriott Meon Valley Golf & Country Club, in Southampton, which operates much more like a conventional golfing establishment than many traditional golf clubs and possesses 27 holes that are as interesting as they are challenging.

Attached to a superb, recently refurbished, four star hotel – the 18 hole Meon and excellent nine hole Valley – offers a great test for hotel guests, but the 700 Meon Valley members are lucky to have some great facilities and a golf course which is set up for enjoyment rather than purely speed.

16 © JUNE 2009

JUNE 2009 © 17

FEATURES

17 Pretty as a Picture

Scott MacCallum visits Marriott Meon Valley which was the subject of last year's winning Photographic Competition entry

23 Focus on Fungicide

Dr Terry Mabbett looks at fungicide and its place in modern turf management

28 Handheld Power Tools

James de Havilland gives you the lowdown on the latest power tools

30 Spraying – Nozzle choice keeps spray on target

Tom Robinson provides some practical tips and advice on nozzle selection

31 Horses (and Tennis) for Courses

Scott MacCallum visits two golf clubs which offer support to two major sporting occasions

38 The Unseen Irrigation System

Adrian Handbury offers some excellent advice to ensure your irrigation pipes measure up.



23



30

GI NEWSDESK

The latest news from around the globe



KEEPING UP THE PACE

Alan Strachan, Course Manager at Royal County Down, certainly couldn't be accused of slow play after completing the London Marathon in a very impressive 3 hours, 5 minutes and 52 seconds finishing in a highly creditable 1252nd – not bad for a 42 year old running novice!

"Until last March when I started to run for the first time in 25 years I took no physical exercise at all but I really caught the bug and was soon running three to four times a week," explained Alan.

"I ran my first marathon in Dublin last October and was then asked to join the local athletics' club. Since then I've been running 70 miles a week."

Alan chose to run for "Children with Leukaemia" as the 14 year old son of John Scott, one of his visiting reps, died of the disease last October.

"I have a child of the same age and it really hit me hard. John mentioned the charity and I said I'd do something for it and that's how I came to enter the London Marathon.

"The day itself was fantastic. The sun was shining and the crowds were unbelievable. I was like running through Wembley Stadium for 26 miles. A fabulous experience and one that I hope to repeat next year."

Is Sustainability Viable?

'Is sustainable management of fine turf a viable option in the modern commercial climate,' was the subject under the microscope at a recent one-day seminar at Bridgewater College Cannington Centre for Land-based Studies. Barenbrug Research and Development Manager, Jayne Leyland, tackled this topic and explained how sustainability is already being achieved in a number of instances.

Jayne focused on how seed breeding and the continued research and development of seed mixtures can play an important role in helping create a more

sustainable approach to golf course management.

Other speakers included Richard Whyman, Burnham & Berrow GC, who talked about his experiences in introducing fescues into the sward; Paul Worster, BIGGA Vice Chairman, who tackled the subject of commercial versus environmental sustainability; Stuart Yarwood from Lymm GC and Paul Lowe of Bromborough GC covered their experience of sustainability with Laurence Pithie, outlining the details of the greens recovery programme at Oak Park GC.

Jayne Leyland (front left) pictured with her fellow speakers at the Sustainability Day held at Bridgewater College. Back row, left to right: Laurence Pithie, Stuart Yarwood Course Manager Lymm Golf Club, Paul Lowe Course Manager Bromborough Golf Club, Will Bowden Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Programme Manager, Bridgewater College. Front row left to right: Jayne Leyland, Paul Worcester Course Manager Minchinhampton Golf Club, Richard Whyman Course Manager, Burnham & Berrow Golf Club.

NEW PRESIDENT FOR EUROPEAN ARCHITECTS

David Krause has succeeded Ken Moodie as President of the European Institute of Golf Course Architects (EIGCA).

The annual meeting of EIGCA took place earlier last month in Noordwijk, Netherlands, where the annual Presidents Cup was played for over the stunning and unforgettable courses at Kennemer GC and Noordwijkse GC.

Canadian born Krause

came to Europe in 1986 and for five years worked for Robert Trent Jones Sr. He set up his own golf course design practice in Germany in 1993. He has also occasionally collaborated with Portuguese architect Jorge Santana da Silva.

David has been a member of the EIGCA Council since the merger in 2000 and served as Hon. Treasurer for a number of years.

He has been chairman of

the PR Committee for the last two years, overseeing the introduction of the e-newsletter and the development of the new website which is due to come on line shortly.

The new EIGCA Council is David Krause; Rainer Preissmann; Peter Fjallman; and Mike Wood together with newly-elected members Jeff Howes; Tom Mackenzie; and Ronan Branigan.



Ratty's Refuge Comes Home

"Ratty's Refuge", the medal winning River & Rowing Museum's Chelsea (2008) Urban Garden has been reinstated at the Museum's Thames-side home in Henley. Sponsored by British Wild Flower Plants (BWFPs), the new garden, which was opened by Alan Titchmarsh on May 1, incorporates many of the original features including in the wild flower bank, the decking (now being recycled for the third time, having started life as the Museum's café terrace) and the pond, but it has grown to over five times the original size.

Ian Forster, Marketing Manager for BWFPs says that there are now four distinct areas, the pond (considerably larger than the

original), a bog garden, a shaded area and woodland. "The garden was conceived to demonstrate an urban sanctuary for the water vole (Ratty), which was, and still is being threatened by the American Mink," he explains. "As last year marked the centenary of 'Wind In The Willows' it seemed the perfect opportunity to raise public awareness."

Forster has planted around 1,000 British wild flowers including water loving plants such as Lesser Bulrush, Marsh Marigold, Water Avenas and Yellow Flag Iris in the bog garden, Primroses, Yarrow and Jacob's Ladder in the shady area, Oxeye Daisies in sunnier areas and

our native British Bluebell in the wood. "As well as highlighting the importance of protecting our native wild life this garden has given us the opportunity to demonstrate what grows where," Forster continues, "and unlike the Chelsea design, which had to be planted to look good for the one week of the show, this is permanent. It means that we could use a much wider variety of species that will bloom right through the year."

Following the opening 'Ratty's Refuge' will be used as an educational resource to demonstrate a natural water vole habitat to visiting schools, families and special interest groups to the Museum.

INAUGURAL RANSOMES JACOBSEN TROPHY

The Golf Course at Cannington Centre hosted its inaugural Ransomes Jacobsen Trophy recently.

The event was marketed by the College as an opportunity for young aspiring golfers to get involved in an educational experience as well as compete for the trophy and prizes sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen and Titleist.

The day comprised of a morning of educational demonstrations and 'have a go' practical's that engaged the young participants and explained to them all the effort that goes in to producing a golf course for their enjoyment.

With the expert knowledge of Canningtons Head Greenkeeper Hugh Murray and support from PGA Professional Ron Macrow and Programme Manager Will Bowden, the day was a success both educationally and competitively.

The College is running a Programme Lead NVQ 2, alongside the traditional Apprentice route for the first time this year and the day was centred on encouraging potential students to see first hand the great facilities and opportunities that are available to them when they study at Cannington.

Cannington will aim to grow this event and encourage the theme of linking a career in sports turf with playing and enjoying the game.

The college wishes to thank Ransomes Jacobsen for their positive support of all the educational programmes at Cannington.

ULTIMATE VIRTUOUS CIRCLE

With prices for waste falling through the floor throughout the world, one British company has created the ultimate virtuous circle – converting plastic waste into an efficient land drainage system.

Aquadyne is converted from virtually any form of plastic – silage wrap to plastic bags, wheelie bins to water bottles – into easily installed blocks of macro and micro porous cells that drain surface water from agricultural fields, sports pitches, golf courses and domestic gardens.

"Newcastle University conducted a life cycle assessment, which concluded that every 200 panels of Aquadyne saves more than two tonnes of carbon emissions," said James Arrowsmith, of Aquadyne Sales & Marketing. "The product is simple to install with minimal disturbance to the grass surface and will effectively drain up to 20 litres of water per second."





Some of the greenkeepers from the event

Greenkeeping Seminar

Eighty golf course and sports ground industry professionals from Devon and Cornwall with students from Duchy College attended a free greenkeeping seminar at Duchy College, Stoke Climsland campus recently. The event was funded by the European Social Fund to provide up to date knowledge from industry specialists.

Two key speakers Steve Gingell, Area Manager for

South West England and South Wales for Sports Turf Research Institute gave a seminar on the use of fertilisers for fine turf. The second speaker was Roger Davey, Managing Director at Irritech an independent irrigation and Consultancy Company who provided information on golf course irrigation.

The event was organised by Steve Evans, work based

assessor/lecturer at Duchy College, Stoke Climsland and has over 35 years experience in the industry. Steve commented: "We have had an amazing attendance for the event, which highlights the need for continuing professional development in the industry. I would like to thank the guest speakers for providing their time, Devon and Cornwall BIGGA and all those who attended."

RADICAL ACTION BEATS THE FUZ



A 30 year old Surrey golf club has enjoyed its first fusarium free winter following radical action by the Head Greenkeeper. Mark Pennells, of The Drift Golf Club at East Horsley, took the decision to apply over 6,000 kg of lightweight, porous, calcinated soil amendment into his 20 greens in September, and hasn't seen a sign of disease since.



John McCormack (left) with new CMAE President John Hunt.

"THE COLONEL" TAKES CHARGE AT THE CMAE

The Club Managers Association of Europe (CMAE) appointed a new President at its Spring Conference at Wentworth recently.

John Hunt, Secretary of The Berkshire Golf Club, Ascot, England takes over from John McCormack of Castle Golf Club, Dublin, in the two-year role.

Lt Col Hunt, affectionately known as 'The Colonel' by CMAE members, admitted his rank and previous career as an officer in the English Army might suggest he was an old-style club manager but that he was "ahead of the game" thanks to education and networking made possible by CMAE membership.

More than 60 club managers from across Europe, including representatives from Italy, Spain, Sweden, Portugal and Ireland, as well as from around the United Kingdom, attended the two-day event at Surrey's Wentworth Club. Among the topics discussed was the impact of the economic crisis and solutions club managers could implement, with input from partners Premium Credit, Jonas Software, E-Z-GO and Colt Mackenzie McNair.

Members were also given an exclusive first glimpse of the new-look CMAE website, with new resources and information for visitors and for CMAE Members: www.cmaeurope.org



Notice to All Members of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association

As you should be aware, on 21st January 2009, the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association (BIGGA) passed a resolution at its Annual General Meeting approving the conversion of BIGGA into a company limited by guarantee and authorising the Board of Management (the Current Board) to undertake such actions as are appropriate to facilitate such conversion.

The rationale behind the proposed conversion is set out below in the section headed 'Why convert to a company limited by guarantee?' as well as the practical implications of such conversion for you as a member of BIGGA (in the section headed 'What does conversion mean for you?').

The Current Board has already set up a new company limited by guarantee – the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association Limited (BIGGA Limited) – the first members of which are the members of the existing Board of Management of BIGGA. It proposes to use BIGGA Limited to facilitate the conversion. A copy of BIGGA Limited's memorandum and articles of association (i.e. its objects and its constitution) is available on the BIGGA web site or upon request from Headquarters.

It is intended that with effect from 1st July 2009 (the Effective Date) all of BIGGA's assets, undertaking and business will be transferred to BIGGA Limited and BIGGA Limited will operate under a set of rules which effectively replicates BIGGA's current constitution.

In conjunction with the conversion to a company limited by guarantee, we need your written consent for you to become a member of BIGGA Limited and to this end you will receive an application form in the post.

Please would you complete and sign the form and return it to Headquarters in the envelope supplied, to arrive no later than 30th June 2009 (Return Date).

We strongly recommend that you read the remaining paragraphs of this notice, in particular the section headed: *What does conversion mean for you?*

Please note that if you do not return your completed application form for membership of BIGGA Limited by the Return Date:

- You will continue to be a member of BIGGA; however, as outlined below, with effect from the Effective Date, all of the benefits of membership of BIGGA and associated administration will be provided by BIGGA Limited; and
- When your annual membership subscription next becomes due for renewal, the receipt by BIGGA from you of a completed subscription renewal form and/or subscription monies will be deemed to constitute an application from you for membership of BIGGA Limited. Accordingly you will be entered on the register of members of BIGGA Limited with effect from the date of renewal of your subscription.

We propose to take the following additional steps over the course of the next four weeks, with a view to implementing the proposed conversion with effect from the Effective Date:

1. Adopt a new 'rule book' for the organisation and management of BIGGA Limited, which will be adopted pursuant to BIGGA Limited's articles of association and will effectively replicate the existing constitution of BIGGA;
2. Transfer to BIGGA Limited all of the assets and undertaking of BIGGA, with the exception of the subscriptions

of members who have not opted to become members of BIGGA Limited by way of a written agreement between BIGGA and BIGGA Limited;

3. Register as members of BIGGA Limited all members of BIGGA who have opted to become members of the limited company; and

4. Put in place arrangements whereby all services to members of BIGGA (whether or not they have opted to become members of BIGGA Limited) will be provided by BIGGA Limited on and with effect from the Effective Date.

It is intended that BIGGA (ie the business in existence before conversion to a limited company) will automatically dissolve upon expiry of the last deadline for renewal of current membership subscriptions, since at that point it will have no assets and no members.

Why convert to a company limited by guarantee?

Like many unincorporated associations, the Current Board has decided to convert BIGGA to a company limited by guarantee because it considers that such a structure will be advantageous to the association.

The principal advantage of conversion to a limited company will be that the association will have its own legal identity, distinct from that of the individual members of its Board of Management. This will allow it to enter into contracts in its own name, rather than in the name of individual members of the Board of Management, and it will also allow it to hold title to land and other assets in its own name.

It will also mean that BIGGA Limited, rather than individual members of the Board of Management, will be liable for fulfilling any contracts to which BIGGA Limited is a party, as

well as any negligence and/or breach of statutory duties.

What does conversion mean for you?

Your rights as a member of BIGGA Limited will be set out in the memorandum and articles of association of the company, as well as BIGGA Limited's 'rule book', as amended from time to time.

As a member of BIGGA Limited, you will enjoy all of the benefits you currently enjoy as a member of BIGGA. The only practical difference between the two forms of membership from your perspective will be that, as a member of a company limited by guarantee, and for a period of one year following cessation of your membership of the limited company, you will have limited personal liability (up to a maximum amount of £1) for any outstanding debts of BIGGA Limited, but only if BIGGA Limited is wound up and a contribution is needed to enable its debts to be paid.

As a member of BIGGA Limited, you will be entitled to withdraw from the limited company by giving at least seven clear days' notice to BIGGA Limited. Your membership of BIGGA Limited will not be transferable and will cease in the event of any one of the following being applicable: (i) death, (ii) if your membership fee has not been paid, (iii) if your circumstances change and you no longer qualify to be a member or (iv) as a result of disciplinary action taken against you by BIGGA Limited.

If you have any queries on the contents of this notice or require further information then please do not hesitate to contact the Chief Executive, John Pemberton, either by post at the Headquarters' address or by email (john@bigga.co.uk).

**Peter Todd
Chairman**



First Sowings at Cropvale

Specialist grass seed breeder Barenbrug has seen the first of its amenity trial plots sown at its UK amenity research site at Cropvale in Worcestershire.

Barenbrug UK's research and development manager Jayne Leyland and UK production manager Andrew Sadler (pictured) were both on hand to scrutinise the plots.

Synergy of mixtures is one of the key areas for study, and the first sowing includes 11 new mixture formulations, which the company will be comparing with its existing BAR range.

Dealer Network Strengthened

Kubota has further strengthened its UK dealer network with the appointment of Rod Gaskin (Farm Equipment) Ltd as a Kubota tractor and groundcare dealer for North Hampshire and West Sussex.

Rod Gaskin Ltd offers the complete Kubota range of ride-on mowers, for domestic and professional use; tractors from 12-128hp, and four variants of the RTV900 all-terrain utility vehicle.

Gaskin's founder and managing director, Rod Gaskin said: "Kubota is a franchise I have always wanted and when the opportunity came up I jumped at it. I am impressed with the quality of Kubota machines, which slot in perfectly alongside the other leading equipment brands we supply, and also with the outstanding level of support provided by Kubota."



Hugh Knowles (left) and Rob Surgey, Senior Course Manager at Burhill Golf Club, Surrey, surveying the successful heather regeneration project at Burhill, part of the group's environment policy and action plan.

ENVIRONMENT POLICY INTRODUCED

Burhill Golf and Leisure Limited has introduced an environment policy designed to enrich the environments of its 10 courses and promote sound, sustainable management of its facilities.

The policy, which demonstrates a high degree of environmental awareness and quality, covers all aspects of on and off-course operations and sets out clear guidelines on the management of water, habitat and waste, as well as introducing an action plan to reduce the group's energy consumption by 15% within six months.

Among the initiatives already underway at the group's three golf clubs and seven pay-and-play golf centres are a heather restoration project at Burhill Golf Club; ornithological surveys and the

addition of bird boxes at Abbey Hill Golf Centre, Milton Keynes; a new reservoir at Hoebridge Golf Centre, Surrey; waste water recycling for machinery wash down at Burhill Golf Club, Wycombe Heights Golf Centre and Abbey Hill Golf Centre; plus integrated supplier plans to reduce packaging and haulage.

An immediate energy reduction plan was put in place at the beginning of 2009 with energy audits being carried out at all 10 facilities, resulting in boiler efficiency improvements, new insulation of heating systems and roof spaces, overnight charging of electric buggies, complete re-lamping of internal and external lighting with energy efficient bulbs, plus the introduction of 'motion detector' light switches.

GOLFERS DRIVE FORE BRAKE

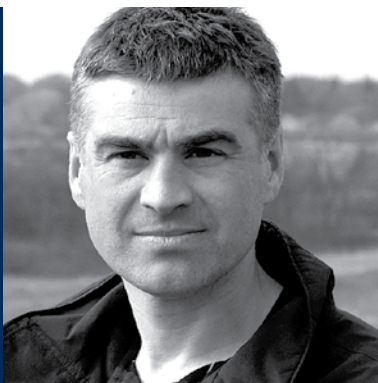
To help raise awareness of the 3,000 people killed every single year on UK roads, Brake is appealing to golfers to 'Drive fore Brake' and organise a charity golf day through their golf club or company.

The appeal, promoted by Brake, aims to raise awareness of crashes in the golfing community and their families.

A horrifying 87 people are killed and seriously injured on UK roads every day. The vast majority of these deaths and serious injuries are a result of dangerous or careless driving and could have been avoided. Brake believes the best way to tackle this is to educate drivers on how they can look after their own and other people's safety. By linking with Brake, we hope golfers will take on board the importance of driving safely.

The funds raised through the appeal will be directed to Brake's support services, including education of all road users and the charity's Brakecare division; supporting people bereaved or seriously injured through road crashes.

For more information contact: 01484 530085 or email: hmervill@brake.org.uk



Chairman's Word

National Chairman, Peter Todd, gives his thoughts for the month

Many of you will have experienced the stop/start growth conditions at the start of the season with some reasonable growing conditions during the first half of April followed by inconsistent growth in the following three weeks.

The gusting easterly winds in early May soon dried out the turf surface stressing the plant and this coupled with low overnight temperatures caused this early growth period to rapidly go into reverse.

With little response from the bentgrasses and Poa seeding prolifically the challenge was on to produce a good putting surface.

We had previously hosted tournaments in the months June, August and September with more growing period to work with, so I was under no illusions about the May date this year and the challenge we faced.



The European Open Support Team will no doubt have done a great job this year

Chuck out your 2009 calendar now!

This Spring required different thinking to prepare The International Course for normal play as well as The Heritage for The European Open. From listening to others the first thing to learn is to ignore which month the calendar says it is when it comes to timing work and concentrate on what the weather and growing conditions are actually doing.

I have known us use modest amounts of irrigation as early as March one year when the plant was desiccating and this year getting wetting agents on early and the use of irrigation as soon as the very dry conditions limited growth certainly helped to reduce turf stress.

Monitoring air and soil temperatures along with daily E.T. levels soon provides the answers you might have to questions such as, Why have my greens stopped growing? What we are not able to do is increase the temperatures?

So taking advantage of every window when these are in our favour, and the use of fertilisers that respond in the prevailing conditions, becomes a must. Knowing when not to do things equally becomes important, such as too early an application of PGRs or using verti-cuts.

With golfers out playing en masse this spring in the sunny, dry conditions their expectations continued to rise as daytime

temperatures at times almost gave the impression summer had arrived.

Despite the fact that they all probably went home afterwards to a centrally heated house for the evening it wouldn't have occurred to them that cold nights affected the greens that they had been playing on that day.

While there are limiting factors to what can be done including the weather, manpower, budgets etc, we still have to produce as good a surface as we can, taking advantage of any opportunities to improve playing conditions.

Let's be honest, ultimately customers are not that interested in what goes on to produce results on the course and the variables that determine the level of success are not all in our control. As golfers expectations have continued to rise consistently, managing these is important now more than ever, as budgets come under pressure.

Where significant reductions in budgets are impacting on some courses' greenkeeping standards it is crucial to communicate the impact of these cut backs in writing to management or committees, including any restrictions placed upon you to carry out greens renovations.

In these circumstances, doing the best job you can on the golf course with the resources available on the golf course is not

enough without also communicating well. Golfers need to feel that the fee they have paid to play is value for money in their eyes, and reflects what they have experienced on the course. We need to make sure it does.

I cannot sign off without thanking my team, all the greenkeepers who volunteered to work at The European Open and to the clubs that released their staff to gain tournament experience with us.

With greenkeepers coming from clubs throughout the country and as far away as Scotland and Ireland it is very rewarding to share our experiences and learn from one another. I would also like to thank all the suppliers who provided additional support for the event that make that important difference.

We remain a close knit industry and it is at tournament times this shines through with great camaraderie on display. I look forward to meeting all the BIGGA Open Support team at Turnberry alongside George and Euan's staff and wish them well for The Open Championship.

Peter Todd
National Chairman



Greenkeepers Training Committee



David Golding, Education Director,
with a monthly update from the GTC

Whether you are an employer, Course Manager, student or working within a Turf Centre we are all part of a partnership when it comes to improving the skills and knowledge of greenkeepers.

The partnership is something the GTC has advocated from day one of the introduction to industry of work-based training. Clearly we all have to do more to ensure the system works and everybody benefits.

Feedback from our recent assessor questionnaire raised several issues and below I have listed the main comments and added my views on how best any assessor should be engaging with the vocational, work-based system.

Employers and any Course Manager who are not qualified assessors may well benefit or relate to the statements made:

1. "The GTC trained me as an assessor but I use my local college for training my staff, where does that leave me with the GTC?"

To assist the GTC Approved Centres with the implementation of N/SVQ's the GTC, in association with a private company, embarked on a programme of assessor training from 1995 onwards.

Over 800 supervisory and management staff on golf courses achieved the D32/D33 assessor qualification.

It is through the assessor training programme that many Course Managers (CMs)/Head Greenkeepers (HGs) now support their staff development in the workplace and when formal qualifications become a goal in association with their chosen Centre-college the assessor qualification should be used.

While the GTC funded and coordinated much of the assessor training for our sector, we are not the organisation responsible for standardisation meetings as this is down to the network of GTC Approved Centres e.g. colleges.

2. "I haven't used my assessor qualification for some time therefore I have never attended a standardi-

sation meeting at a Centre so do I need to achieve the A1 award?"

If you have not had a candidate(s) registered with a Centre for some time, it is not necessary for you to attend standardisation meetings.

However, when you choose to register a trainee on a vocational qualification including the apprenticeship scheme, the Centre should immediately ask whether you have the assessor qualification D32/33 or A1. If you hold the D32/D33 award you do not need to gain A1. The Centre will subsequently carry out a standardisation meeting with you to bring up to speed with the current National Assessor Standards.

By engaging you, the Centre benefits by your participation in the learners training AND assessment but I appreciate this is not the case with all Centres.

Quality Assurance is key to the success of any vocational programme and Centres have to show Awarding Body representatives (External Verifiers) that the Centres Internal Verifier has all of his/her assessors assessing to the National Standards.

How can this easily be achieved when some Centres have learners on golf courses all over Britain?

It is a false impression that assessors attached to a Centre must attend a meeting at the Centre.

The Internal Verifier at any Centre is the key person in the standardisation process and he/she can keep their assessor team "up to standard" remotely through the visits they have to make to the learners workplace. Updating can happen one to one as well as in group sessions.

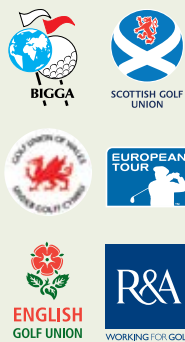
It is the remoteness that seems to give some Centres the excuse NOT to use qualified assessors and this I find an unacceptable reason not to use YOU as it is the CM/HG who is best placed to train and assess your learners SUPPORTED by the Centre staff.

3. "I am keen to be more involved with my staffs development and assessing but the college don't seem to want to use me"

In Brief

David explains how following the circulation of a questionnaire to all assessors trained by the GTC he sees the quality of vocational qualifications still needs to be monitored by YOU...

The GTC is funded by:



As mentioned in the above point it is down to you to point out to your chosen Centre that a) you are a qualified assessor and b) you are keen to support the learner therefore please engage me formally in the training and assessment programme and if appropriate ask for an IV updating session just to remind you of the assessment options.

4. "I am too busy to do assessing, it's the colleges job to train and assess my trainee, not mine!"

The GTC embarked on the assessor training programme believing that the person best placed and competent to train and assess staff skills is the CM/HG. It is they who work with the student daily.

The GTC appreciates the workload on CMs/HGs especially at the moment however, I also believe you are only as good as your team. A well trained skilled team can be a Course Manager's greatest asset and the time involved in the training and assessment of staff soon pays dividends.

So often I hear from Centre staff that the CMs/HGs don't want to be involved in the training and assessment process.

The GTC has excellent examples of when the CM/HG-Centre staff-learners are all working to an agreed training plan and is a win-win system for all concerned.

I suggest that the N/SVQ system is like a three link chain. The Centre is the middle link, whose role it is to keep the other two links connected.

One link being the learner and the other link is the CM/HG and if one link is not playing their part and that puts more stress on the other two.

Finally, thank you to everyone who completed the questionnaire and hopefully I have answered some of the queries raised.

The GTC, in still promoting the Skills Agenda, is looking at sources of funding to train those CMs/HGs, and where appropriate Deputies, who do want to be formally involved in their staff development, but funding is a story for another month!

Contact Details

David Golding
GTC Education Director

01347 838640
david@the-gtc.co.uk

GTC
Aldwark Manor
Near York
YO61 1UF

www.the-gtc.co.uk

Learning & Development

Sami Collins, Head of Learning & Development,
with an update on education issues



Festival season is approaching, so I hope you've all got your wellingtons and kagools at the ready. I know that I will not be camping this summer (or ever!), but I hope if you are the sunshine gods are kind to you and that you don't end up resembling a muddy monster from the deep!



BIGGA Library

Thanks to the support of the Learning and Development Fund contributors, several new books have been added to the library in the last month.

As you will see from the titles (some of them are brilliant!), they mainly concentrate on management issues but several of them will be useful, even if you're not in a management position.

The new titles are:

- Dealing with People You Can't Stand: How to Bring Out the Best on People at their Worst – Dr Rick Brinkman.
- Difficult Conversations: How to Discuss What Matters Most – Bruce Patton
- Coaching at Work: Powering Your Team with Awareness Responsibility and Trust – Matt Somers

- How to Form a Team: Five Keys to High Performance – Centre for Creative Leadership

- How to Launch a Team: Start Right for Success – Centre for Creative Leadership

- Maintaining Team Performance – Centre for Creative Leadership

- Customer Service Training 101: Quick and Easy Techniques That Get Great Results – Renee Evenson

- Toxic People: Decontaminate Difficult People at Work Without Using Weapons or Duct Tape – Marsha Petrie Sue

- The Art and Science of Communication: Tools for Effective Communication in the Workplace – Les Brown

To view the list of available books you can either request a printed Library List or you can go to the Members Section of the BIGGA Website and click on Lending Library, you can then search by Category or by Author.

Once you have found the book(s) you are interested in you can see if it is 'Available' or 'On Loan'.

If the book you are after is 'On Loan' you can either telephone or email your request and it will be sent to you on its return.

You can borrow up to two items for a period of up to six weeks.

The only cost to members is return postage to BIGGA HQ.

The funding provided by Golden and Silver Key Sponsors is used to produce training and career aids, DVDs, CD Roms, field guides and provide refunds for training fees and subsidised learning and development courses. The funding also helps support seminars, workshops, courses, the lending library, careers advice, posters and manuals.

Many young greenkeepers owe their career progression to the assistance they've had from the Learning and Development Fund. An equal number of established greenkeepers have also been able to access the fund to continue their professional development thanks to the donations of the Golden and Silver Key Sponsors.

Higher Education Scholarships – supported by Ransomes Jacobsen



Funds are still available for Higher Education Scholarships. You could be eligible to apply for a scholarship of up to £1500 if you:

- Are a greenkeeper member of BIGGA
- Are working as a full-time greenkeeper
- Have been a BIGGA member for a minimum of two years

Courses that could be eligible for a Scholarship include: NVQ Level 4 Sports Turf Management, Foundation Degree, HNC, HND, MSc and BSc

Updates and Reminders

Master Greenkeeper

Congratulations go to Tim Anderson from Naperville Country Club in Illinois, USA on achieving the Master Greenkeeper Certificate. Tim is the 49th greenkeeper to achieve the Certificate.

Continuing Professional Development

The current CPD year ends on June 30. Send in your claim forms to ensure that you receive your 2008/09 Continuing Professional Development Certificate.

Contact Details

Sami Collins
Head of L&D
sami@bigga.co.uk

Rachael Duffy
L&D Administrator
rachael@bigga.co.uk

01347 833800 (option 3)
www.bigga.org.uk

Thank you to our Golden and Silver Key Sponsors



Golden Key Individual Members: WJ Rogers; Andy Campbell MG, CGCS; Iain A Macleod; Tom Smith; Frank Newberry; Christopher Lomas MG, Lee Strutt MG.
Silver Key Individual Members: Ade Archer; Steven Tierney; Paul Jenkins; Iain Barr; Richard McGlynn; Steve Dixon; Hamish Campbell, Neil Whitaker, Robert Maibusch.

CONTINUING TO INVEST

Ransomes Jacobsen, and its affiliate company Jacobsen, based in Charlotte, North Carolina, continue to invest in new products that demonstrate their unrivalled commitment to the sector, despite the economic downturn.

With the support of parent company, Textron, both companies are launching new mowers into the golf and municipal markets in 2009, while continuing their commitment to environmental management.

In the U.S., Jacobsen launched the new R-311 batwing rotary mower earlier this year at the Golf Industries Show in New Orleans,

Louisiana. They also launched the innovative Eclipse 322, a hybrid ride-on mower with electric drive to the cutting cylinders with a choice of motive power from a

battery pack or diesel engine.

Here in the UK, Ransomes Jacobsen will be unveiling a significant new Ransomes mower at Saltex in September 2009 for the municipal sector, and are continuing to invest in the Jacobsen golf mowers built in Ipswich. The companies have also recently introduced a new range of cutting cylinders with a 45 degree relief, another first for the industry.



The new Jacobsen R-311 launched earlier this year.

NEW RECRUIT

Building on success, the STRI is adding to its South East Consultancy Team to cater for an increasing and diversifying demand for its services.

STRI has employed Sports Turf Agronomist, Charles Henderson, to add strength to the Southern Team. Charles, originally from East Yorkshire, has spent the last four years as a Sports Turf Agronomist for The New Zealand Sports Turf Institute.

Prior to the NZSTI Charles studied a HND in Turf Science and Golf Course Management at Myerscough College and a BA in Landscape Management at the UCL.

MARKET PRESENCE INCREASES



Tim Saville

Tim Saville has joined Rigby Taylor as a Area Sales Representative, working in the company's Local Authority team throughout the counties of the East Midlands.

Tim is a qualified horticulturist, having studied at Brackenhurst College and, in the 18 months prior to joining Rigby Taylor, was Head Groundsman at Rampton Hospital.

Trevor Helme has been appointed as the Linemarking Business Development Manager for the North of England and will be assisting the Rigby Taylor area sales team in expanding their linemarking products business.

Trevor brings to the company a wide experience having worked in the Amenity industry for over 15 years.



Trevor Helme

INTERNATIONAL PRIZE WINNERS

A-Plant has won a prestigious Access Industry Training Award at the inaugural International Awards for Powered Access held in Dublin.

Organised with the support of the International Powered Access Federation (IPAF) to celebrate good practice, professionalism and quality in the access industry, the Access Industry Training Award was one of ten Awards being competed for by companies around the world and one of three categories in which

A-Plant was nominated.

The Award Judges commented on A-Plant's win: "A-Plant's win has been realised due to the fact that the company has made itself one of the UK access industry's most successful 'one stop shops' for training.

In 2008, the company trained over 3700 employees, and held over 4500 training days for its 2000 staff.

Further to this the company also invested in a new state of the art National Training Centre."

Pictured at the controls of Fenner's two brand new Allett Regal 36 mowers are Head Groundsman, John Moden (right) and his Deputy, Robert Costen.



CUT BY NEW MOWERS

Outfields at one of Britain's best-known and most attractive university cricket grounds will be cut this season by two new Allett Regal 36 mowers equipped with trailed seats.

The ground is Fenner's, home of the Cambridge University Cricket Club for more than 100 years and an integral part of Cambridge University's Physical Education Department which purchased the machines.

Replacing two Allett Regal mowers dating from 1998, the two new machines were specified by Head Groundsman, John Moden, and supplied by local Allett sub-dealer, Rod Widdowson Garden Machinery.

Team Expansion

The UK economy may be encountering choppy waters, but at Fieldfare Amenity it's full steam ahead. An ever increasing demand for services and products - including the innovative and highly successful Liquitec fertiliser - has resulted in us expanding our team.

The latest recruit is Mark Phipps-Jones who will be working

closely with the existing and soon-to-be customers in the amenity sector. Mark studied sports turf management at Writtle College and subsequently gained considerable experience as a greenkeeper in the Essex area.

A keen golfer himself, Mark is a key addition to the Fieldfare Amenity team.



Philip Spencer welcomes Mark Phipps-Jones to the Fieldfare Amenity team.



RETIREMENT

Test and Assembly engineer, Dai Williams, who joined Ransomes Sims and Jefferies in 1959, has retired after 50 years of dedicated and loyal service with Ipswich-based turf maintenance equipment manufacturer.

Dai joined the company in 1959 and because of his age, just 14 years and 11 months old, he worked initially in the Tinsmith's Shop, before beginning a five-year apprenticeship during which he was required to make his own tools which included measuring blocks, punches and various other items.

In 1964, after completing his apprenticeship he was seconded to the Forklift Truck assembly line.

During the early 1970s he was involved with making ploughs, cultivator and sprayers for the Agricultural division, before moving to the Experimental department in New Works. By the mid-70s he was working in the mower division and more recently on the main tractor line, building ride-on mowers. Leading up to retirement and following a recent health scare he was undertaking light duties on this line.

Commenting on Dai's retirement, David Withers, Managing Director said,

"It's people like Dai that are the backbone of this company; you only have to look at our annual long service awards, where those who receive their 20 year certificates are looked upon as just learning their trade! We are extremely grateful to Dai and the men and women like him, who have given such loyal service over the decades."

QUARTET MAKES GOLF DIGEST TOP 100

Four of St Andrews Links' seven courses have been listed in the Golf Digest Top 100 Courses ranking for the first time prompting the magazine to name the town as the world's "pre-eminent destination" for golf.

After only four months in operation The Castle Course has been listed at number 65 in the list, two places behind the New Course. The Jubilee Course has moved into the top 100 at number 92, while the Old Course is in second position overall.

The magazine's biannual ranking of the top 100 courses outside the US is compiled by more than 900 golf course panelists, the editors of its 23 editions around the world and a range of golf experts. The poll appears in the May edition which describes St Andrews as "the game's pre-eminent destination". The magazine praises David Kidd for his work on The Castle Course and suggests it demonstrates the "continuing evolution at the Home of Golf".

Alan McGregor, Chief Executive of St Andrews Links Trust, which manages and maintains the seven public courses in St Andrews, said, "It is a wonderful achievement to have four courses recognised in such a definitive ranking.

For The Castle Course to be included so soon after it opened is remarkable. It is also pleasing to see some well deserved recognition for the Jubilee Course. This is no mean feat when you see the caliber of the courses from around the world included in the ranking."





Pretty as a Picture

Scott MacCallum visits **Meon Valley**, the subject of last year's Photographic competition winning picture, and discovers a hotel golf complex with a members' club feel

Let's face it, we are all guilty of stereotyping. Scots are all tight-fisted; southerners are all softies; the Welsh all sing and are descended from coal miners, while the Irish all come up a bit short when it comes to grey matter. We all know it's nonsense, but the myth still gets perpetuated on a daily basis.

It also exists in golf. The accepted mantra is that members' clubs are invariably cosy and stuffy with visitors treated as a barely tolerated, but necessary, evil, while proprietary clubs and hotel courses on the other hand have wide fairways, short rough and pile as many people through as can humanly be accommodated.

We all know that while there is perhaps an element of truth in it there are many golf venues which don't fit into that stereotypical model.

One such is Marriott Meon Valley Golf & Country Club, in Southampton, which operates much more like a conventional golfing establishment than many traditional golf clubs and possesses 27 holes that are as interesting as they are challenging.

Attached to a superb, recently refurbished, four star hotel – the 18 hole Meon and excellent nine hole Valley – offer a great test for hotel guests, but the 700 Meon Valley members are lucky to have some great facilities and a golf course which is set up for enjoyment rather than purely speed.



“The last thing I would want is a park. I go with the theory that golf should be a walk through the countryside playing golf as you go. It shouldn’t be a quick whiz around a park where everything is mown at the same height and things are all tidy and trimmed,” said Course Manager, Phil Walker, who has been at Meon Valley for 14 years.

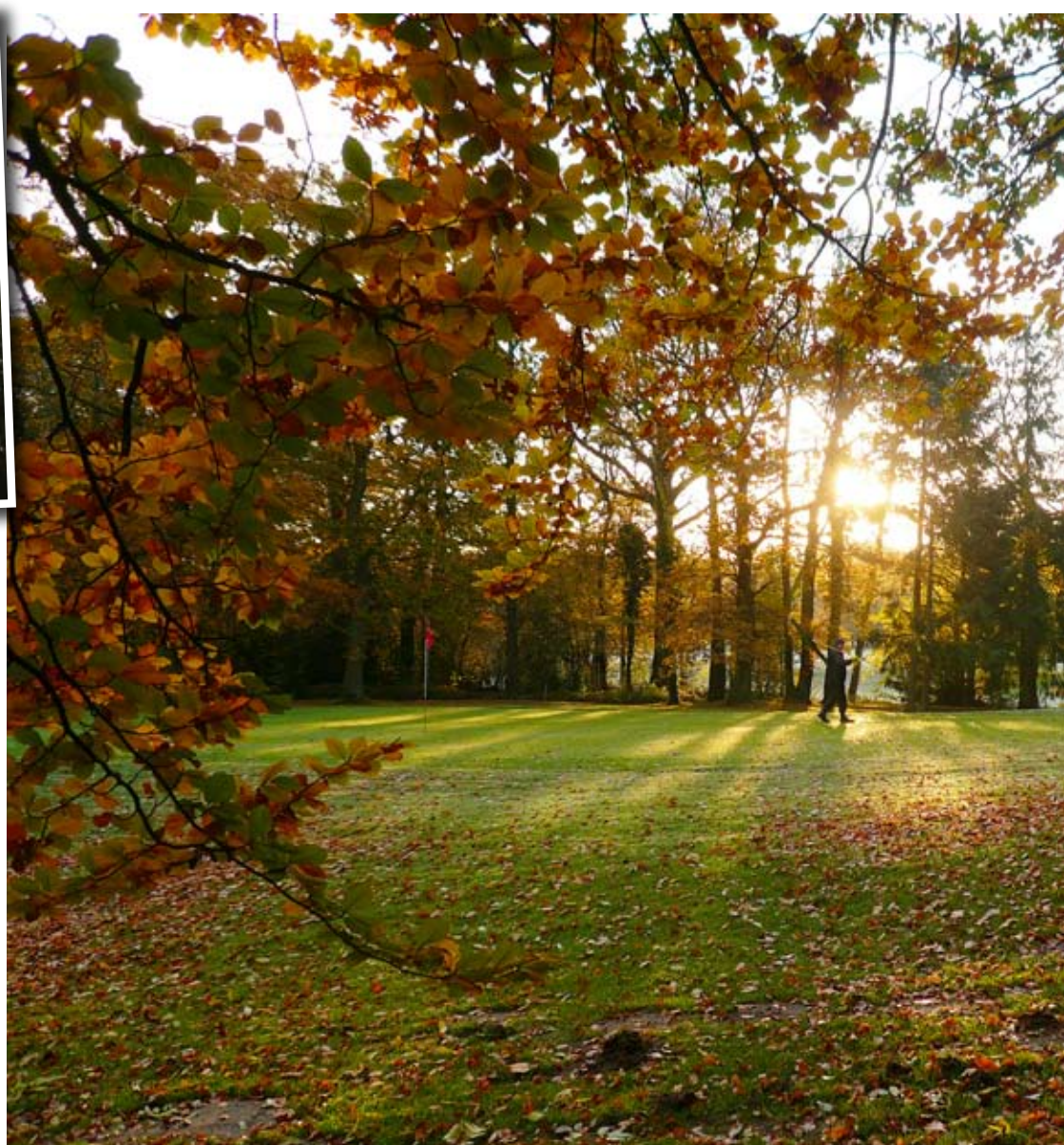
Outside of course furniture there is no corporate look to the Marriott golf venues on this side of the Atlantic and Phil and his fellow Course Managers are left to manage their courses in the appropriate manner for each one.

“There is a corporate logo with regard to flags, tee markers, signage etc but apart from that it’s entirely up to us how we set up our courses. Different courses require different styles of presentation and we are spread from Scotland (Dalmahoy) to South Wales (St Pierre), central England (Forest of Arden) and Ireland (Druids Glen). The Course Managers get together about once a year and have telephone conferencing now and again. In fact we had one yesterday to discuss Audubon.”

The Marriott Hotel Group has taken on the Audubon Environmental programme and is looking to have all of its UK golf venues certificated by the end of this year.

“We started at the beginning of this year so we haven’t got long to achieve it but that’s the Marriott way – throw everything at it and make it happen. In one way that’s good because it forces you to get stuck in and get it done otherwise it can sit on the back burner and just drift along,” explained Phil.

The American Audubon programme was adopted by Marriott because it too is an American company but it has seen Phil, and his fellow UK-based Marriott Course



Dean studied at Portsmouth University, two years full time BTEC National diploma in General Art and Design, and three years BA HONS in illustration, finishing up with a 2.2. He also studied GCSE Photography at Peter Symonds Sixth Form College.

A collection of his artwork is shown on the right.

Managers, having to adapt the paperwork to UK terminology.

“We have to convert everything to imperial measurements as the paperwork doesn’t recognise the metric system and one question asks how many acres of prairie we have. Easy, none! Tick the box,” joked Phil.

“Certification falls into sections – wildlife surveys, tree surveys, water conservation and testing and finally outreach education which involves inviting groups of adults or children onto the golf course to teach them about the environment and how best to manage it. The water surveys are possibly the most important as it give an indication of any nitrates or chemicals leaching into the streams or ponds.”

Much of what Audubon does records what is already being done at the club as routine maintenance but it is a great way of reinforcing the environmental message.

“When you start looking into it

you realise that so much of what we do is just the sort of thing that the ecologists are looking for anyway. If we are clearing woodland we’d automatically leave a log pile for animals or insects.”

Becoming certified involves significant investment for Marriott but the company sees it as a serious project and is committed to doing it properly.

“It’s not just a case of getting a little stamp every year but it will involve sending off documentation showing how we’ve reduced our pesticide usage and how we’ve developed areas of land to encourage wildlife or cut water loss through correctly set up sprinklers or repaired leaks. It will also mean keeping a log of wildlife spotted on the course.

“For instance we’ve planted some wild flowers down by the 17th pond on an area of scrubland that we’d cleared. That came about because we saw it as a project that could work towards Audubon. There



Works of Art

Dean paints almost every day, and can squeeze between four to six hours in a week day, and sometimes up to 12 hours a day at the weekend.

“Being a greenkeeper gives me plenty of free time to be creative. It also provides inspiration and material to fuel my paintings. I’ve also had one or two commissions from the golfers, and am planning to produce a collection of golf course photography in the form of a calendar. This should hopefully go down well with the members,” he explained.

Dean favours oil paints, oil pastels and oil bars, acrylics, and in the last couple of years he has embraced the new medium of digital painting.



“For me this is a step like the one artist took in the past, from egg tempera to oil paints. There is even the same stigma as before, people think because it is drawing on a computer it’s easy...”

This is the furthest from the truth, for starters the pen is harder to control, and the detail is as fine as a single haired brush, if you could get such a thing. Although it is faster to work, more time seems to be spent trying to achieve the finish required.”





was a cost in terms of seed and in preparing the ground but in the long term if it encourages bees and other wildlife it's got to be positive," explained Phil, who also explained that a lot of the on-going work at Meon included tee levelling bunker renovations and sleepered bank retention.

Phil is a self confessed poa fan and has found that by incorporating Primo Maxx into their management programme it is making a genuine improvement to turf quality.

"I'm quite happy to say that I grow Poa as it's one of the most resilient grasses I know. Yes, you get seed heads for a few weeks a year but with Primo the seed heads tend to shrink and we don't get any real problem with them while we get a dense sward all the way through the winter and as long as we apply a preventative strobilurin fungicide in the Autumn we suffer very little fusarium.

"With Primo we don't cut less we just take less grass off. This can be up to 50% which significant and the root mass is definitely improved. A lot of people cut one day and iron the next and we are going to try that as it cuts down the stress on the plant.

"I just think that Poa gets a very bad reputation and every one is afraid to say they've got it. I've managed it for nearly 25 years now and



Course Manager, Phil Walker, who has been at Meon Valley for 14 years.

PREVIOUS PAGE PHOTOS: Top left (inset), by the lake at night; main above, crunch deweying the 6th; and above right, the green by the misty pond.

MAIN ABOVE: The 17th at Fillamor

it's nothing to be afraid of. If you've got it work with it. I'm a firm believer in the maxim you've got what you've got so don't fight it and I believe that if you've got more than 50% poa there is no point in trying to get rid of it as I don't think you'll ever keep it out and you'll probably go mad trying.

"The worst thing is if you've got a mixture of poa and fescue bent. All these grasses grow at different speeds especially in the Spring. Then you've got problems."

The Meon Valley team is very experienced with more than half the guys having more than 15 years' service at the club and they are a talented bunch. Dean McMenemy won last year's BIGGA Photographic Competition with a stunning landscape of the course while, from their mess room up a spiral staircase in the top of an old barn, each breakfast involves some serious collective thinking.

"We do the Daily Mail quiz page every morning and if we get every question correct the prize is that we get half an hour off at the end of the day. It's happened once in nine years. It's the Master Quiz that kills us," said Phil.

Dean's success in the Photographic Competition created a real buzz among the team with many of his colleagues already taking

pictures for this year while there is also talk of a Meon Valley calendar to be produced by the team.

"Dean should really be an artist or a photographer but, because of his artistic flair he's a brilliant greenkeeper – he has a real eye for how things should be presented."

One of the big bonuses of being involved with a large corporate organisation is training and every Marriott employee receives 40 hours of training a year - more than a working week's worth.

"The difficulty we have is to make training relevant for greenkeepers but it is high quality training," explained Phil.

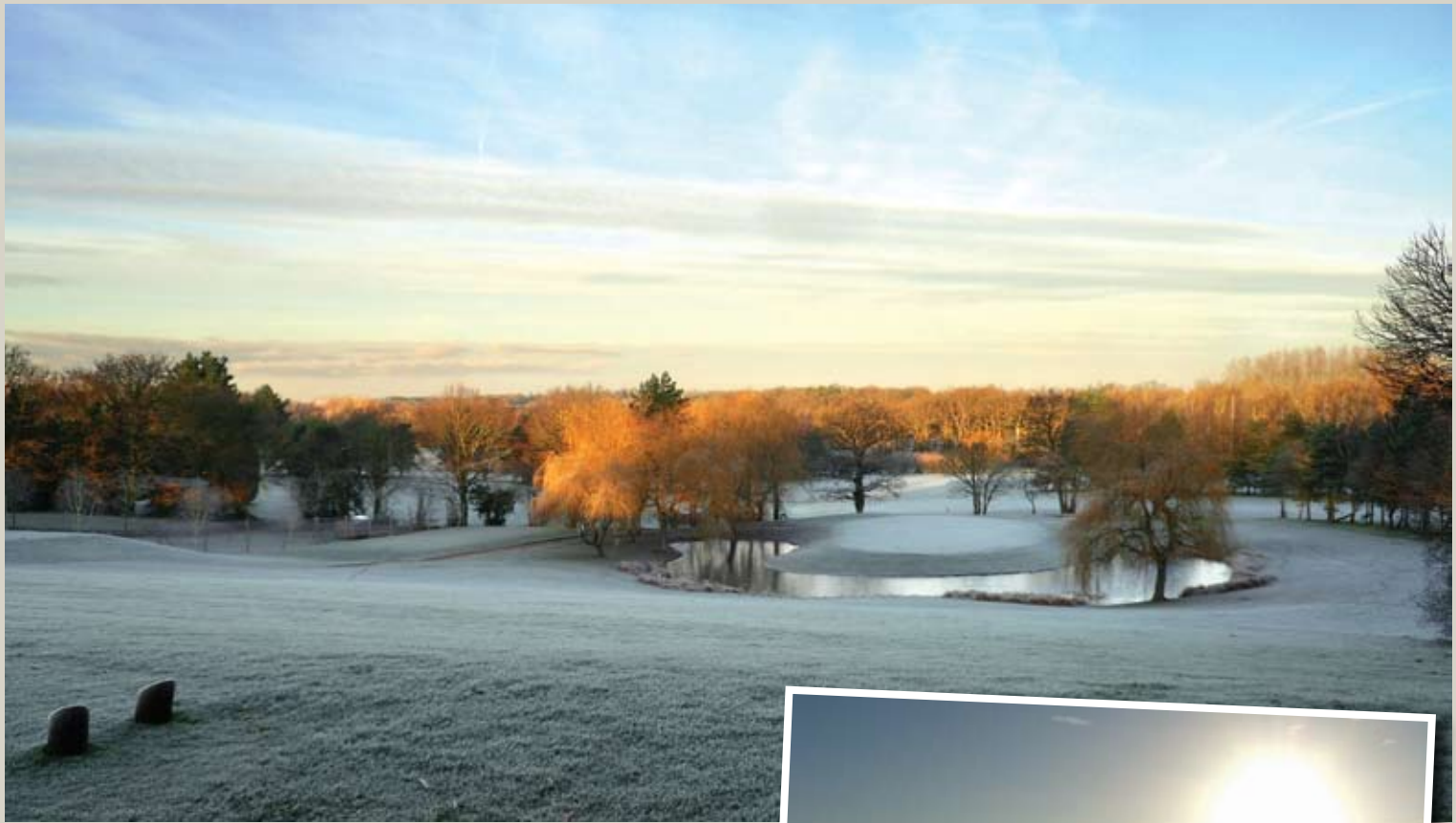
At this point, Dean stuck his head around the door to say he'd finished his job but that he'd noticed some areas of long grass around some of the trees and could he go out and strim them.

"See that. He cares about the golf course. He's spotted a job and thought I'll do that and it's not that he's picked a cushy job, he's going out strimming. That's not something you'd necessarily associate with a corporate environment but I don't think Meon is different from the other Marriott venues where they also have a lot of long service so, while it's not perfect, there must be something right with the Marriott way."

info

Height of Cut In Season:
4 mil 3 mil for major competitions
Out of Season: 5 mil

Fertiliser Regime
Start of year a granular feed at 18-0-36
Monthly liquid feed of seaweed and low N mixed with Primo Maxx
Winter High K feed



Strike A Pose

BIGGA's Photographic Competition, supported by Syngenta, is back...



Calling all budding photographers! Are you proud of your course? Do you catch yourself admiring it in a certain light?

The BIGGA Photographic Competition, supported by Syngenta and back for its fourth year, creates an opportunity for greenkeepers to display their artistic flair, while also earning some publicity for their club.

The winner will receive a full course profile in Greenkeeper International and a special prize, while the 12 best pictures will be selected for the 2010 BIGGA Calendar.

Photographs will be accepted in three

forms. Prints, transparencies, or digitally. Digital pictures must be at 300 dpi (dots per inch) on the camera's highest quality setting, and capable of being scaled up to A3 print size (42cm wide x 29.7cm high). Please note, cropping may occur if photos are to appear in the magazine or calendar. Also please ensure digital photos do not show the time/date display!

Anyone wishing to enter should email them to: tom@bigga.co.uk, entering 'BIGGA PHOTO COMP' as the email subject header.

Alternatively post to: Tom Campbell, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark Manor, Alne, York, YO61 1UF by July 31, 2009.

Only BIGGA members are eligible to enter. Please note Syngenta will have access to the winning pictures and will credit them when and if used.

Winning photographs from last year's competition are shown. At the top of the page is the winner, Marriott Meon Valley GC – Looking West by Dean McMenemy.

Above right is Hankley Common GC – Dewying Green by Gareth Roberts, which came second. Below right is Papillion, Montgomerie (Turkey), by Liam Bergin, which came third.

So come on...strike a pose!

No.1 IN THE UK FOR HIGH QUALITY STEEL BUILDINGS

DESIGNED AND CONSTRUCTED TO YOUR SPECIFICATIONS

DOMESTIC - COMMERCIAL - AGRICULTURAL



9 REASONS TO CHOOSE A WEST COUNTRY STEEL BUILDING

1 VALUE

WE SELL MORE STEEL BUILDINGS THAN ANY OTHER COMPANY IN THE UK AND WILL NOT BE BEATEN ON PRICE OR QUALITY.

2 EXPERIENCE

OUR NETWORK CAN PROVIDE YOU A FULL COMPREHENSIVE HASSLE FREE PACKAGE COVERING YOUR PROJECT FROM START TO FINISH.

3 FLEXIBILITY

OUR UNIQUE CONSTRUCTION METHOD ENABLES US TO BUILD TO VIRTUALLY ANY SHAPE OR SIZE, WITH A WIDE RANGE OF CUSTOM FEATURES: ROLLER DOORS, WINDOWS, SKYLIGHTS, PARTITIONS ETC.

4 CONVENIENCE

OUR FULLY GALVANISED STRUCTURES ARE MAINTENANCE FREE.

5 QUALITY

BUILDINGS ARE ENGINEERED TO BS6399 (PART2). OUR UK STEEL SUPPLIERS, A. STEADMAN & SON, HAVE ISO 9001-2000 ACCREDITATION. OUR CLADDING SUPPLIERS OFFER A 25-YEAR WARRANTY.

6 SPEED

BUILDINGS CAN BE SUPPLIED WITHIN 4 WEEKS.

7 CLADDING OPTIONS

CHOOSE FROM SINGLE SKIN PLASTISOL, FIRE-RATED COMPOSITES OR TIMBER-EFFECT WEATHERBOARD.

8 DESIGN

AS YOUR LOCAL DISTRIBUTOR WE CAN DESIGN YOUR STRUCTURE IN FRONT OF YOU AND PROVIDE YOU WITH AN INSTANT QUOTE. OUR UNLIMITED FEATURES WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH A PRACTICAL COST EFFECTIVE SOLUTION CATERING FOR YOUR NEEDS.

9 CONFIDENCE

VISIT OUR SHOW SITE OR ASK TO SEE REFERENCES FROM DELIGHTED CUSTOMERS CONFIRMING THE QUALITY OF OUR BUILDINGS.



WEST COUNTRY STEEL BUILDINGS
15, HIGH CROSS ROAD,
ROGERSTONE,
NEWPORT,
NP10 9AE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL NOW ON:
07970 827 085
07785 322 960
01633896263

EMAIL: SALES@WESTCOUNTRYBUILDINGS.COM

WEBSITE: WWW.WESTCOUNTRYBUILDINGS.COM

Focus

on Fungicide Action

Dr Terry Mabbett looks at fungicide and its place in modern turf management

Turf disease control with fungicide looks easy but first impressions are misleading. Unique circumstances pre-dispose turf grasses to diseases which are difficult to control due to specific nature and management of the sports turf environment.

Virtually all turf diseases in the United Kingdom are caused by fungal pathogens. Most are present in thatch even when there is no active disease in the sward.

Microdochium nivale causal pathogen of Fusarium Patch and *Colletotrichum graminicola* (anthracnose) are versatile fungi, living as parasites on living grass plants or as saprophytes on thatch according to prevailing conditions. Horticultural crop debris is generally discouraged but thatch is maintained as a 'cushion' in the playing surface.

Sports turf is subject to continual wear and tear that builds up through spring and summer.

ABOVE:
Close up of Fusarium Patch
(Picture courtesy of Vitax Ltd)

This article comes to you courtesy of the BIGGA Learning and Development Fund.



Grass becomes progressively more stressed and vulnerable to disease with lowest ebb in early autumn just when increasing rainfall, mists and dew start to favour diseases like Fusarium Patch and anthracnose.

Focus on fungicides

Mowing maintains grass as turf but favours disease by wounding leaves and spreading fungal spores and infected grass clippings especially when wet.



Mowing removes green photosynthetic tissue and grass plant's total capacity to manufacture carbohydrate for shoot and root growth. Turf responds to increasingly lower cuts with more tillers but this increases sward density, raises humidity and encourages disease development and spread.

Wounds from mowing breach grass plant defences. Xylem tissue continues to carry water from roots to shoots. Nutrient-rich sap exudates at the severed ends of grass leaves are readily exploited and colonised by fungal pathogens including *Colletotrichum graminicola*, *Rhizoctonia solani* (brown patch) and *Sclerotinia homoeocarpa* (dollar spot).

Disease symptoms appearing in straight lines across turf indicate spores or infected clippings were carried by the mower especially if grass was wet because moist clippings adhere to mower blades and wheels.

Fungicide on the surface or inside the tissue of excised lengths of leaves is lost in the clippings.

When all these factors are considered it is hardly surprising that turf is vulnerable to disease which is

“Fungicide on the surface or inside the tissue of excised lengths of leaves is lost in the clippings”

difficult to manage with fungicide sprays.

Greenkeepers are conversant with fungicide label recommendations but it is helpful to delve deeper than what is said on the packet or in the brochure. This information will graphically describe what can be achieved and the mechanics of getting there, but how the fungicide works is often relayed too simplistically.

Deeper understanding allows greenkeepers to ask more questions and achieve more benefit through their own initiative and best practice. They can develop disease management programmes using a range of complementary fungicides of varying behaviour and modes of action and not necessarily from the same 'stable' and source.

Contact fungicide

First thing to know is how a fungicide behaves physically on turf grass because this determines how it affects the pathogen to prevent or cure disease. Contact fungicides are purely preventative (protectant) in action. They are

sparingly soluble solid chemicals formulated as wettable powders, water dispersible granules or suspension concentrates and which stay on the outside surface of the leaf.

Once in place at adequate concentration and coverage they inhibit or kill germinating fungal spores or fungal hyphae growing out from the thatch. Contact fungicides must be in place on the plant before fungal inoculums arrive and they cannot suppress, cure or eradicate established infections inside leaf tissues because they cannot reach them. By the same token contact fungicides are of little use against pathogens which infect the crown and roots.

Essential requirements for contact fungicides are good coverage and tenacious deposits resistant to rainfall and irrigation or physical removal by high wind and traffic abrasion. Use of recommended spray nozzles and spray volumes should ensure optimum coverage. Use of excessively high spray volumes is generally counter-productive because contact fungicide 'running-off' into soil is not absorbed by the grass roots and is

ABOVE: Turf disease control after an early new year's start in West Sussex

therefore lost and wasted. Choosing a suitable 'window' when wind speed is low, grass is dry and rain not imminent allows spray droplets to impact, dry out and leave tenacious weatherproof deposits on the turf.

Manufacturers can enhance sticking power (tenacity) by micronizing the fungicide to a very fine mean particle size. Number of particles in a set mass (weight) of fungicide will rise exponentially (steeply) as particle size is reduced. This translates into more fungicide particles per unit area of grass leaf and shorter distances between deposited particles, so the entire leaf surface is 'covered' and protected.

The smaller the particle the higher will be its surface area to mass (weight) ratio and therefore the forces of adhesion which



stick particles of fungicide to leaf surfaces. Contact fungicides with a mean particle size (diameter) of around 1µ (micron) are most tenacious and perform best in rain simulation tests.

Manufacturers can also improve tenacity and weatherproof properties by formulating the fungicide with appropriate adjuvants as surface active chemicals.

Contact fungicides possess a brozal action against the pathogen. Fungicidal effect at many points in the fungal metabolism will control a correspondingly wider range of fungal pathogens.

Extended and intensive use of a contact fungicide is therefore less likely to select out (encourage) pathogen populations insensitive to its action. The risk of fungicide resistance is low so there is accordingly less restriction on frequency of use.

Systemic fungicides with curative properties operate by single-site action against the pathogen. There is a much higher risk of fungicide resistance and this is why most are restricted to just one or two treatments per year. The classic contact fungicide used on UK turf is chlo-



rothalonil (phthalonitrile group) available in a range of products and established in the market for many years.

Systemic fungicide

Most modern turf fungicides enter the plant and move around inside to a greater or lesser extent. In UK parlance they are called systemic fungicides, but only those that move from point of entry (leaf or root) into other parts of the plant have true systemic activity and offer all the benefits this brings. Others that move into the leaf but not laterally from the point of entry show trans-laminar activity.

Mesostemic' is a relatively new term describing fungicides that bind to the waxy leaf cuticle and move across the leaf surface as vapour to bind at points away from site of deposition. Penetrant is the term more commonly used in North America to describe all fungicides that move at least some way into the plant and this appears to offer a more appropriate and less confusing description.

Fungicides that move around the entire plant are the only ones that

INSET LEFT: Thatch is an important cushion for turf but also a reservoir of potential grass pathogens

ABOVE: Greens spraying at Tilgate Forest Golf Centre (Crawley, Sussex) and a job well done. Head Greenkeeper Colin Chilvers (Left) and Sprayer Operator, Barry Edwards

can provide a full range of benefits afforded by true systemic activity, but even they are constrained depending on point of entry. First things to know about a systemic fungicide is whether entry is via roots, leaves (or both), how long it remains on the leaf surface before absorption and movement profile once inside in the plant.

Systemic fungicides arrest disease through curative or eradicator action. These terms are interchangeable although some manufacturers try to differentiate by using curative and eradicator to describe fungicide action against vegetative and reproductive phases of the pathogen, respectively.

Systemic fungicides actually inhibit or suppress further development of infections inside grass plants. Curative and eradicator action are well established and widely accepted terms that imply that fungus inside the plant is killed or totally destroyed when actually it is not.

Systemic fungicides will also protect turf by contact action while they remain on the leaf surface, and from inside the plant by preventing entry of germinating spore



about the author

Dr Terry Mabbett has experience in grassland agronomy, and tree protection in forestry, horticulture and amenity. He has worked as consultant and technical writer in these fields for 20 years with a strong focus on pest, disease and weed management



germ tubes or vegetative hyphae. Systemic fungicides may enter the plant through the leaves, the root system or both. Advantages of leaf absorption are quicker entry and additional preventative action while the fungicide remains on the leaf surface.

However, since all truly systemic UK approved turf fungicides show acropetal movement (carried upwards in the xylem or water conducting tissue) there is limited scope for movement inside the plant for fungicide that secures entry through the leaves.

A big advantage of absorption by root system is potential for acropetal movement of the systemic fungicide from the roots and through the plant to tip of every leaf. Systemic fungicides taken up by the roots can establish a reservoir in the root system and crown and replenish fungicide lost when grass is mown and protect post-spray new grass growth from disease.

Systemic fungicide washed off leaves into the soil as run off during spraying or by subsequent rainfall is not necessarily lost like contact fungicides suffering the same fate.

When root absorption is the main mode of entry then spray volumes which are higher than normally

used for purely contact fungicides can prove beneficial. Systemic turf fungicides have been used for around thirty years beginning with benzimidazole group of chemicals. Classic and truly systemic chemicals used on turf today include the triazole fungicides propiconazole and tebuconazole.

More sophistication and complication

Not all turf fungicides fall neatly into purely contact or true systemic action categories. One that does not is iprodione. Iprodione is a long-established and highly valued member of the dicarboximide group of fungicides.

Iprodione is traditionally classed as a contact fungicide but also has curative action which implies a degree of leaf penetration. Iprodione is a contact fungicide apparently showing some local penetration and therefore additional curative action. It is traditionally considered to be multi-site action but, according to STRI, should be reclassified as a single-site action fungicide.

Leaf penetrating fungicides first move into and then through the waxy cuticle that covers the epidermis. Lipophilic (fat loving) fungicide

molecules are best equipped to achieve this. The strobilurin fungicide pyraclostrobin moves rapidly into the cuticle concentrating there to form a reservoir of fungicide that protects the leaf against infection.

As turf disease control becomes more sophisticated so do the fungicides used to carry it out. Mesostemic is the term used to describe fungicides that bind to the waxy leaf cuticle and have extra vapour phase activity facilitating redistribution of fungicide across the leaf surface and subsequent binding away from the initial deposit. The strobilurin fungicide trifloxystrobin falls into this category.

Combining two or three different fungicides within a single product is an increasing feature in the turf fungicide market.

These combination products have a wider spectrum of activity and should control a correspondingly wider range of pathogens and disease.

Products which combine a range fungicide chemistries and biochemical modes of action, with dual contact and curative properties, help minimise risk of pathogen resistance to specific single-site action systemic fungicides.

Golden Key Sponsors



Silver Key Sponsors



This article comes to you courtesy of the BIGGA Learning and Development Fund.
Thankyou to all our key sponsors



BIGGA Golf Day 2009

Monday 15th June 2009
at Aldwark Manor

For further details, please contact
Kirstin Smith on 01347 833832



Great Range. Unlimited Versatility.

The **ProPass** has the widest application range of any topdresser: delivering perfect, ultra-light dustings and applying even, ultra-heavy coatings. For daily maintenance to annual projects and more - the **ProPass** is unmatched in performance.

You're Out Front
tycroturf.com



call us now on **01638 720123**
or visit www.thegrassgroup.com



better value • better quality build • better quality cut

A better contour
following mower

PROGRESSIVE
TURF EQUIPMENT INC.

from The Grass Group

CALL US NOW ON **01638 720123**
OR VISIT www.thegrassgroup.com

 **The Articulator** 

The ONLY High-Definition Mowers on the Market

Model 100EF

Now with Universal Fitting
Universal 3-point mounting kit makes the 100EF compatible with every traction unit on the market.

PTO Tractor-Driven Mower
Swivel-wheel kit available for front or rear steer tractors, choice of gearboxes.

245cm cutting width
Incredible Versatility

Tel: 01622 812 103
Fax: 01622 815 534
Email: sales@lastec.co.uk

www.lastec.co.uk

Handheld Power Tools

make life just that much easier

James de Havilland, writes with his regular insight into current machinery

Hand held power tools, from brush cutters to hedge trimmers through to workshop drills and impact wrenches, continue to evolve.

The key issue is to keep an eye on developments as there may be one item of kit that is a solution to a specific problem you may have.

There are occasions when you are trying to solve one problem that you stumble up against the solution to another. This can be the case when looking for a specific item of equipment.

A trawl through the various cordless impact drivers available lead on to the realisation that there are a growing number of other cordless tools that may help get around specific jobs that have proven a hassle in the past.

As an example, a small bow saw or loppers are ideal for removing light overhanging branches, but it is often the case that the job gets complicated by the need to trim the branch back to remove dangerous cut ends. The job gets more involved, and then the removed material needs to be cut up so it can be easily removed. Before you know it, a five minute job has turned into a 60 minute chore.

With a light and easily portable battery powered chainsaw, you have the ideal next step up from a bow saw. These tools can tackle a reasonably sized branch and cut it off cleanly nearer the trunk or



Impact wrenches not only make some nut twirling jobs faster they also can make jobs easier too. A good example is when unwinding the bolts securing a rotary mower blade. The advantage of a battery powered unit is that it can easily be taken to the mower. The Spaldings Truecraft 13mm (1/2") drive 19.2v cordless impact wrench pictured will not have the same power as a pneumatic equivalent, but it is rated as developing 400 Nm (295 lb-ft) of torque.

larger branch. The same saw will quickly reduce the branch to more easily managed 'lumps'. As long as you remember to keep the battery charged, the saw will be ready at the touch of a button.

An enduring problem with all types of hand held equipment, however, is weight. At present battery powered kit still caters for the lighter end of hedge trimming and sawing. So although the future may see a battery powered brushcutter or hedge trimmer rivalling a petrol powered unit in the future, it could be a long wait. Electric power may not resolve another issue, this being the actual weight of the tool.

What may help with making tools less tiring to use are the backpack mounted support systems from Overton (UK) and DJ Turfcare Equipment. These units essentially use a support cord to take some of the weight of a tool, reduce the load carried by the operator's arms and shoulders. They look a bit odd, but they really do work.

RIGHT: Some items of hand-held equipment are pretty tiring or even tricky to operate. The Easy-Lift from Overton (UK) employs a backpack mounted support arm to take some of the weight of the tool being supported. This makes working with a pole saw much easier. The Easy-Lift can also be operated with other tools to include a brushcutter and hedge trimmer.

FAR RIGHT: The elephant's Trunk from DJ Turfcare Equipment is designed to reduce the weight of handheld equipment to the equivalent of 1Kg - the support system taking some of the tool's weight from the operator's arms and passing it to the backpack. Apart from reducing weight, the vibration passing back to the operator is also reduced.





The Makita BUC121Z 14.4v Li-Ion cordless chainsaw has a cutting capacity of 115mm. Weighing a mere 2.4kg and fitted with an automatic chain oiler, this diminutive unit is small light and portable, making it an ideal unit to carry in a vehicle for small pruning the tasks - often needed when mowing close to trees and shrubs. Note bar end guard. This considerably reduces the chance of kickback.



The Makita BGA450 14.4v Li-Ion 115mm cordless angle grinder can share the same battery as the chainsaw. Suitable for cutting, grinding and sanding, this tool could be ideal for those who need to touch up rotary mower blades on site. Not needing a mains cable also makes it easier to get to difficult to access areas, angle grinders often helping to speed repairs by cutting off stubborn fasteners.



The Makita LXT battery powered blower at first seems a little too small to be of much value to professional operators. A blower, however, is one of those tools that can be used in more ways than its job description. As an example, these tools can be used to help clear debris from a mower radiator, gently blow away clippings that have strayed into a bunker or even clear dew. The fact the tool is cordless improves the chances of it finding a useful job. This unit has a volume flow of 2.3m³/min at a pressure of up to 72m/sec. All from a tool that weights well under 2kg.



Spraying

Nozzle choice keeps spray on target

Application specialist, Tom Robinson, provides some practical tips and advice on nozzle selection from the bewildering range of sizes and designs on offer. Achieving the right spray pattern can help to help achieve the best possible results that will help to make good turf great.

As the final point of delivery, the choice of nozzle influences water volume, spray pressure, droplet size and distribution – all of which ultimately dictate spray coverage on the leaf and, most importantly, spray retention on the intended target.

All nozzles produce a spectrum of droplet sizes, but the proportion of small, medium and coarse droplets will vary. Large nozzles tend to produce more coarse drops, while small nozzles tend to produce more fine drops. Operators can use their choice of nozzle to tailor droplet size to the turf structure and the spray target.

While the conventional flat fan nozzle can do a very acceptable job in most conditions, using the optimum nozzle for the job could make the all important difference between an acceptable 90% control, and an excellent 99% result.

The choice really depends on the target for the spray. Small droplets provide a greater leaf coverage for any given spray volume and are

generally retained well on the leaf surface. When the droplet size is halved, the number of drops produced goes up by a factor of eight, and the coverage of the leaf may be up to four times greater.

Drift control

The problem is that fine droplets are more difficult to control and more likely to result in drift. Dense, fine turf is a very flat, uniform surface with little internal air movement, which makes it a difficult target. Fine droplets just hover above the surface in a boundary layer of air; if there is any wind they can drift off.

Spraying on a still summer evening, when there may be upward thermal currents from the warm soil, these fine droplets can easily be lifted up and carried off - which is another reason why spraying early in the morning is often preferred, and results when there is just a little air movement can be more effective than very still conditions.

If you are spraying longer grass –

such as areas of rough around the golf course or some amenity situations - then the canopy can create its own vortex, which effectively sucks down the spray droplets.

Turbulence generated by the sprayer itself is also generally bad news. If you double the forward speed the turbulence is increased by a factor of four, which may make it harder for small droplets to break out of the air flow and land on the target. It is a factor to consider when moving to faster forward speeds.

In general, you will be able to go faster and in a wider range of conditions with nozzles producing larger droplets, as there is less risk of turbulence and drift. Larger drops also have greater velocity to improve penetration of dense turf. So if you are looking to target disease pathogens at the soil surface, such as Heritage for Take All or Fairy Ring, and for liquid fertilisers they may be an ideal choice.

In the past, the velocity of large droplets has resulted in droplets literally bouncing off the target or running off over-wet leaves, espe-



about the author

Tom Robinson is the Spray Application Specialist with Syngenta Turf & Amenity. Further results and information on the nozzle developments – along with a range of other spray application advice - can be found on the GreenCast website Application Zone: www.greencast.co.uk

Key points for nozzle selection

- Change nozzles to match spray target and conditions
- Air induction nozzles can reduce risk of spray drift
- Leaf coverage is important for contact foliar fungicides
- High velocity nozzles can increase penetration through dense turf
- Reduced water volume can improve timeliness of applications



cially at higher water volumes. This has been bad news for the efficacy of fungicide products, particularly contacts. However, the advent of air induction nozzles, that incorporate tiny air bubbles within each droplet that act as 'shock-absorbers', helps the larger drops land gently on the leaf and spread to give good coverage, rather than bouncing off. Good product formulation, with the correct blend of surfactants and adjuvants, ensures good coverage of the leaf and minimal run-off.

Water volume

We also know that foliar fungicides can perform equally well, if not better, when applied at a water volume of 200 l/ha, compared to 600 or 800 l/ha traditionally used in some situations. This could further enhance the potential of new air-induction nozzles and make them an especially good option for foliar fungicide and PGR applications.

One further benefit of reducing water volume is that it saves time and you can get around the course

quicker to minimise disruption to players. If you could do all your greens on one tank fill, for example, that might save an hour and enable you to finish before the course gets busy. For spraying larger fairways and rough areas it could make a significant difference.

Faster application also means products can be applied closer to the optimum time, ensuring you can achieve the best possible results. Trials have shown the ideal time for most fungicide applications is after there has been a high risk of disease pathogens landing on the leaf, but before spores have germinated and penetrated the surface to cause any damage. The Greencast forecasting system gives valuable guidance of risk, but you may only have a few hours to act, so timeliness of application is important.

However, you do need to remember that for fungicide applications of Heritage or Headway aimed at soil level pathogens, such as Take All or Fairy Ring, water volumes do need to be kept up to get good spray penetration to the target.



Nozzle research

Syngenta is currently undertaking trials at the STRI, along with greenkeepers and turf managers, to evaluate and assess turf specific designs and recommendations for new nozzle options. The initial research has highlighted potential for two specific nozzle choices, one for foliar fungicides, herbicides and PGRs aiming at retention on the leaf, and a second for fungicides targeted at the base of the plant and soil surface. Coupled with the selection of the appropriate water volumes and application at the optimum time, turf managers could further improve disease control and turf quality in the future.

Horses (and Tennis) for Courses



Mark Harvey and Dave Langheim have their busiest time of the year now, and not because of golf. **Scott MacCallum** visited them just before it all kicked off



June sees two of the world's great sporting events take place within 12 miles of each other in and around London, but while The Derby will see visitors casting their eyes over expensive thoroughbreds and Wimbledon has tennis supporters willing Andy Murray to become the first British men's single's Champion since Fred Perry, two people will spend their time, eyes skywards, praying for sunny, dry weather.

Mark Harvey, Head Greenkeeper at Epsom Golf Club, and Dave Langheim, Course Manager at

Wimbledon Park Golf Club, both see their golf courses play a huge role in these two iconic sporting occasions.

The two courses are each no more than a road's width away from Epsom Downs and The All England Club respectively and are closed for the duration of the events to become home to car parks, hospitality facilities, police compounds and, until this year, a fully fledged fun fair. As you might imagine they do leave the odd blemish to the turf.

"The Derby, which is always run on the first Saturday in June, affects at least 10 of our holes and means our course is closed for two

days," said Mark, who maintains Epsom with a staff of four including himself.

"Some of the lesser race meetings, and we have around 13 race days a year, cause the closure or certain holes for an afternoon," he added.

It does lead to the odd occasion when race day visitors have driven to the course but enjoyed themselves a little too much and taken a taxi home.

"On occasion we have cars left on the course which are collected the following morning. They drive off a little embarrassed when they realise the car park is also a golf course."

MAIN: Epsom Downs Racecourse on the horizon of Epsom Golf Club

INSET FAR LEFT: Bird's eye view of the golf course, showing parked cars and the fairground



Mark, who has been at the club for 18 years, tries to keep his fairways as fertile as possible in the run up to the The Derby and prays that it stays dry, often in vain.

This year for the first time the traditional fun fair won't be on the golf course but in the past Mark has always found the fair people very good to work with.

"Many of them have come for years and we know them well so when it's been wet and they haven't had anywhere to head off to we were quite happy for them to stay put for a couple of days until things dried out."

The greens are all fenced off and the police put down trackway for their compound, but Mark still has quite a bit of damage to put right when he gets his golf course back again.

Once the new Derby winner has been anointed and is relishing the

rest of his life at stud, Mark and an official from the racecourse will carry out a full inspection to see what damage has been done.

"We have a good relationship and the Racecourse do, when requested, send assistance to help with the clear-up. Among the damage that The Derby generates is, obviously, compaction, diesel spills, grass dying off under the metal roadways that are installed, irrigation pipes being holed by fence posts while loose nuts, bolts, nails and screws turn up for a long time after.

"Cylinder mowers are a big no-no for a while afterwards and on one hole, the 9th, we play preferred lies through the green," said Mark, who also said that he lost some rough on one hole near the racecourse as it was mown short to allow more car parking.

However, there is an upside to having to close in the height of the

"The Club members are happy to know that they play a part in what is the most famous horse race in the world"

season as the course benefits from no play for a short while.

While the course is out of commission Mark and his team can work on his fenced off greens. Hollow coring, solid tining and overseeding in June gives some superb results and Mark is rightly proud of the quality of his greens.

"I don't think you would find many greens, on an inland course in this country, with the amount of bent and fescue grasses we have," he said.

Epsom members join knowing that The Derby has a big impact on the Club. All the main competitions – annual pro-am, Captain's Day etc - are held prior to June. The Club members are happy to know that they play a part in what is the most famous horse race in the world.

Mark, who admits to no interest in racing and a dislike of horses, is pleased to look after a club with

ABOVE: Views of Epsom Downs; and Mark Harvey, Head Greenkeeper at Epsom Golf Club, pictured near the damaged turf on the course



such a famous name and cope with whatever it throws at him.

Epsom is still getting itself back to normal when, two weeks later, Wimbledon swings into action and Dave Langheim sees his lovely 5,500 yard Wimbledon Park course - which is laid out around the Capability Brown-designed Wimbledon Lake - transformed.

"We have something in the region of 10-12,000 cars parked on the course during the Championships, with a public car park on the back nine and the members and players' guest car parks on the other side of the course along with the hospitality units, Sky, CNN and Capital Radio. The 12th and 13th holes are left empty as evacuation points for everyone at the tennis in the event of an emergency," explained Dave, who took over as Course Manager just before last year's Championships.

Preparations start as early as April when Dave meets with the All England Club and the AA, who do all the fencing and roping off of the course, to discuss preparations then, two weeks before the start, the framework for all the tents are brought in across the fairways over a portable roadway.

"At this stage we are still open for play and the security guards monitor the golf and control the traffic, including the 40 tonne trucks," said Dave.

"The week before the start of the Championships is when everything really happens and the golf course comes to a very slow halt. We shut down on the weekend before the Monday start and reopen the weekend after the tennis finishes. Basically it takes two weeks to set up and one week to break down," he explained.

Like Epsom, Dave, and his team of eight guys and a mechanic, make the most of the non-golf time.

"We are very busy during the three weeks. We sand Graden all greens and tees, it's a fantastic time to do it. I use Richard Gooding and his team from Machines Direct. This year we will be using the seed attachment to the Graden, we use 60 tonnes of 35mm sand that is dry kilned. While this is taking place during the first week of the Championships M J Abbotts will be here to redesign and Sportscrete the bunkers on the 17th. We have plans to Sportscrete all the bunkers in the future," revealed Dave.

The work is made easier for the Wimbledon team because, for security reasons, every car must be taken off the course at the end of each day. This allows them to keep on top of some of the cutting, although with the car parks open at 6.30am each day, and visitors keen to take advantage of the tickets that



MAIN ABOVE: The new Centre Court looms over the golf course
INSET ABOVE: The tracks can be seen all year round
BELOW: The golf course is immaculately maintained





“The Wimbledon factor doesn’t give the club license to spend money recklessly”

ment being played at Wimbledon, it will see the course closed twice within a few months and all the work doubled!

The All England Club ensures that Wimbledon Park Golf Club is recompensed for the use of the facilities each year, which ensures that the contents of Dave’s Maintenance Facility would do justice to some much larger golf clubs.

“The Wimbledon factor doesn’t give the club license to spend money recklessly, each department has a strict budget, but we do know we can make plans for the golf club and be confident that they will happen. For instance the five year plan includes a new irrigation system and fairway drainage improvements,” said Dave, who added that he is working closely with the local council to improve the water quality in the lake with the long term aim of using the top three inches for irrigation.

Don’t go worrying about the Wimbledon Park members and their lack of golf in June and July – they don’t miss out for the three weeks that their course is out of commission.

“There is an open evening at the club and members are invited to choose where they wish to play from a list of clubs which includes the likes of Hankley Common, Coombe

ABOVE: Wimbledon Fortnight transforms Wimbledon Park Golf Club

INSET LEFT: The Greenkeeping Team with Dave Langheim back right

are available to the public, are not slow to arrive. The often televised lines of queuing tennis fans snake along two of the holes.

Compaction is again one of the biggest problems and it is not unknown for the large articulated lorries to get stuck if they fall off the trackway.

“The only damage we had last year was to some of our irrigation boxes when a 40 tonner decided to drive over them and we always have grass dying off underneath the trackway. When they go that

turf is shredded off and relaid,” said Dave.

On the Monday and Tuesday after the Championships the All England Club provides 30 to 40 people to assist with the clear up while Wimbledon Park uses contractors to do the restoration work.

“We use Golf Links, who have done our work for a number of years. Basically I order the turf and the Rootzone and get everything ready for them when Dave Walker and his guys arrive,” said Dave, who is waiting for 2012 when, with the Olympic Games tennis tourna-



Hill, Walton Heath and Effingham. They can play up to six times on these courses over the three week period and it's all covered as part of their membership of Wimbledon Park," explained Dave.

As Course Manager Dave has a security pass to the Championships and thoroughly enjoys his involvement during the fortnight.

"I love it. The buzz here is fantastic with the hospitality guests being chauffeured back and forward to the Centre Court in Club Cars that look like Rolls Royces, Johnny Vaughan and Denise Van Outen did their Capital Radio shows from a bus on one of the fairways, we also cut a tennis court out on one of our tees for Tim Henman and Amanda Holden to do a Robinson promotion. It is all going on.

"People don't realise that they are on a golf course and what a lovely golf course it is," he said.

Both Dave and Mark have high points in their year that don't involve golf but in their own way, and with the levels of resource they have available to them, they ensure that their courses are at their best for their members.

When you watch The Derby and Wimbledon this year have a thought for the work that two fine greenkeeping teams have done, and continue to do.

ABOVE and BELOW RIGHT: Wimbledon Park Golf Club in it's healthier state

RIGHT: More damage from tracks



"Johnny Vaughan and Denise Van Outen did their Capital Radio shows from a bus on one of the fairways!"

The Unseen Irrigation System

Adrian Handbury offers some excellent advice to ensure the irrigation pipes that go into your golf course measure up

Do you recognise the following scenario?

After years of telling the management committee that the irrigation system is not cost effective and providing the figures to prove that repair costs are a five figure sum annually, it has been decided that something must be done.

The Course Manager spends hours consulting with the Green Committee and Secretary on one side and the internet and manufacturers' brochures on the other. Too much information has been gathered, so the Club narrows it down to quotes from three different irrigation contractors. However, the prices differed by 200%, so the services of an irrigation consultant are procured. The consultant dismissed all the quotes, designed a system and invited five further contractors to submit a tender for a bill of quantities. This has generated five quotes, each with three different manufacturers. Presentations are made to the committee/club, and then finally, with, recommendations from the Course Manager and Consultant, a contractor and a branded product are chosen.

So the moment has finally arrived, the decision has been made and the contract signed. A start date is agreed, and materials begin to arrive on site. Two articulated lorry loads of pipe pull onto site, and this is unloaded behind the sheds. Five huge reels of cable in lurid colours are placed in the shed (you know how valuable copper is at the moment!). Three pallets of Brand X sprinklers and valves are put in the shed for safe-keeping. So we have the origins of a superb new Brand X irrigation system.

Or do we?

Do we know what the average breakdown of the irrigation system materials can be?

As we can see from table (inset), the greatest material input is the one which will probably be the one to which the client has the least knowledge of, or control of, within the specification.

What is actually known about this commodity apart from it is nowadays usually 'poly' (polyethylene) rather than u-PVC (unplasticised polyvinylchloride)?

What questions should the Course Manager or committee be asking about this important com-



BREAKDOWN OF THE IRRIGATION SYSTEM MATERIALS

• Pipe	33%
• Rotors	30%
• Control	12%
• Pump Set	9%
• Cable	8%
• Valve Assemblies	5%
• Water Storage	3%

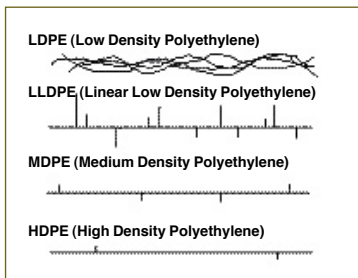
(Breakdown based upon breakdown of average components used in an 18 hole greens, tees and fairways installation)

modity, which will soon disappear under the course and hopefully never be seen again?

The most common material that is used today is polyethylene (PE) which is often known as 'blue pipe' by the greenkeeping fraternity. However, the product, polyethylene, is a manufactured hydrocarbon which may be manufactured into many different products which include drink bottles, carrier bags or water pipes.

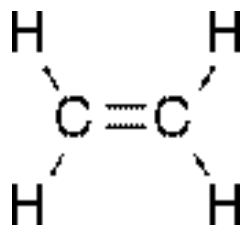
The expected lifetime of the irrigation system is at least 15 years, and so it is imperative that the correct grade of polyethylene is used in the pipe which is used for the pipe in the irrigation system.

ABOVE: Replacement fairway irrigation installed by mole-plough at Carnoustie Links



The structures of the various grades are made up as shown.

These lines represent the make-up of the internal structure of the different types of PE. The LDPE is made up of random strands of the hydro-carbon which are loosely connected. This makes for a very



The bonded hydrocarbon molecule polyethylene

flexible but relatively weak pipe – usually suitable for pressure applications up to 4 bar. As the density of the PE increases, the strands of the compound become more linear and tightly woven which increases the strength of the pipe. The denser the material becomes, the greater the wall strength. This also means that the wall thickness can be reduced so that the flow through the pipe can be greater.

The simplest breakdown of the pipes types specified for irrigation systems are MDPE (Medium Density Polyethylene) and HDPE (High Density Polyethylene). When PE was first used in irrigation systems it was manufactured from relatively

low grade material, and was usually black. The colour black was specified for two reasons

1. It was more cost effective as there were no particular standards required for irrigation

2. Drinking (potable) water is carried in blue pipe which should carry a kite-mark to show conformity to regulations

Nowadays there is a greater variation of pipe colours available:

Black - often using recycled or reground plastic in its manufacture.

Blue - usually thicker walled MDPE for drinking water use.

Black with Blue Stripes – usually thinner wall HDPE; use as above.



Black with Green Stripe – HDPE specifically designed for irrigation use and to be installed by mole-plough.

As PE pipe became more common for irrigation systems, and also more contracts were consultant led, it became usual to find standards for pipe to meet in order to be deemed suitable for a pressurised irrigation mainline. As the irrigation industry is too small to demand its own standards, these were borrowed from the drinking water industry. These standards are designed to cover the requirements of all of the water authorities for both the installation of the pipe and also the quality of water that reaches the end customer. They cover the colour of the pipe, and the effect of sunlight on it. The long-term stress-crack resistance and some also cover the pipe's suitability for welding.

The requirements that are most prevalent for the greenkeeping market are primarily longevity of the pipe which includes the joints and associated fittings, and the ability to withstand the rigours of installation by mole-plough. This is a quality which is especially important in soils with high adhesion properties, and also in stony ground.

The former is due to the pipe being gripped by the resistance of the soil which may cause the pipe to be stretched. The latter may inflict scores in the pipe as it is pulled into

the ground and so compromise the wall strength.

So how do we determine how strong the pipe is? As with many other industries, the watchword can be traceability. Any reputable supplier should be able to provide provenance of the pipe which would include the maintenance of a sample of the raw material for 10 years. Any pipe which is manufactured to the European standard EN12201 will have this provision. If at all possible, the pipe should be available with a proof of performance such as a written warranty. In addition, if the pipe is manufactured with a green stripe then this will be manufactured with catalysers which will improve the pipe performance for mole-ploughing.

Replacement fairway irrigation installed by mole-plough at Carnoustie Links.

If at all possible, the pipe should be available with a proof of performance such as a written warranty. The pipe should also be confirmed as having a suitable pressure rating. If the installation is to be on a relatively flat course then a 10bar pipe will be more than sufficient as approved pipe (manufactured to EN12201) will have a high safety margin. If there is undulation across the course in excess of +/- 15m then a higher pressure rating should be used.

One final word of caution when a new irrigation system is installed.

“It may be prudent to think ahead in these litigious times and ensure that the pipe is marked so that it may not be mistaken for mains drinking water”

Occasionally it is decided to install drinking fountains around the course for the refreshment of golfers. If the plans have not been maintained for irrigation mains supply then it may be possible that pipes are found which are not known if they are for irrigation or mains drinking water. If the pipe found is either blue or black with a blue stripe then it may be assumed that this is for potable water and connected to the drinking water supply.

This may not be the best assumption to make, especially if the irrigation system draws water from a borehole, reservoir or possibly grey water supply. Even a mains water supply to an irrigation system will have a great volume of water sitting in the pipes – especially if there is a wet year and the system is not used for prolonged periods. It may be prudent to think ahead in these litigious times and ensure that the pipe is marked so that it may not be mistaken for mains drinking water.

In conclusion, there is more to the largest component of an irrigation system than just being a bit of 'poly' pipe. We have generally left the days when pipe is glued together on the Monday and pulled in on the Tuesday, and so lush green patches every 6m down the rough are not as common. But a client should arm themselves with as much reassuring material as possible to get the best system available.

ABOVE: The end result – do not touch for 50 years!



EAGLE

Eagle designs and delivers quality golf club collateral

t +44 (0)1883 344244
f +44 (0)1883 341777
e info@eagle.uk.com
www.eagle.uk.com

Augusta



Point of Play Markers

Hardwood - Teknos Finish
Galvanised Steel Pins
Faces Any Colour

We're offering them at just
£4.95 each

If there's anything from signage to seed boxes you want to discuss, call 01883 344244

what's your problem?

For the complete solution, call the longest established amenity weed control company in the UK

Complete Weed Control can help solve all your ground care concerns, saving you money and labour as well as enhancing the natural attributes of your establishment.

From airfields to zoos, stately homes to highways, we deliver fast, efficient and timely support to clients with a variety of needs. With our objective and honest approach, we offer the most comprehensive weed control service in the UK.

...problem solved

complete weed control

- Total weed control
- Disease control
- Fertiliser application
- Moss & algae control
- Worm control
- Selective weed control
- Grass growth control
- Insect control
- Aquatic weed control
- Forestry work

Local help from a national company
0800 783 2884
www.completeweedcontrol.co.uk

Topturf
irrigation (service) Ltd



2006, 2007 & 2008

TOPTURF IRRIGATION IS THE LEADING DEALER INSTALLER & SERVICING AGENT FOR OTTERBINE BAREBO AERATION EQUIPMENT.

Our team has over 100 years experience and guarantee a reliable, honest and jargon-free experience.



Please call us on 0044 (0) 870 8720081 or visit our website at www.ttirrigation.co.uk

GI

NEW PRODUCTS

The latest products on the market reviewed



CONVENTIONALLY STEERED

Two conventionally-steered ride-on mowers with zero-turn capabilities have joined the Massey Ferguson product line-up for 2009. One is a mid-deck machine, the other a front-deck model, making it the first out-front rotary mower within Massey Ferguson's grounds care range.

The MF 50-23 IZ ride-on mid mower has independently driven rear wheels and a unique steerable front axle operated by a conventional steering wheel.

Drive to the two rear wheels is controlled by advanced Synchro™ technology (patents pending) that synchronises movement of the steering wheel to control the speed and rotational direction of the rear wheels. The result is zero-turn agility from a conventionally-steered mower, enabling 360 degree turns to be made within the overall length of the machine.

For users who prefer an out-front mowing deck, the new MF 50-22 FMZ ride-on front mower combines the exceptional manoeuvrability of a zero-turn machine with the high visibility provided by having the cutter deck mounted ahead of the operator.



UNDERLAY UNDERLAY

Recticel UK has launched its new shockpad for golf.

Re-bounce® Golf has been specifically developed in cooperation with professionals in order to provide the best possible solution for an artificial golf green.

The product offers a significant decrease in ball rebound providing similar characteristics of a turf green. This is achieved by using a recipe of different foam types in its manufacture.

01536 402345
www.recticel.co.uk



CLUB SCRUB

Made of vacuum formed plastic, the new Club Scrub contains hygiene brushes which clean all around a golf club when inserted.

The Club Scrub sits on the ground and is filled with 6.5 litres of water and a touch of fairy liquid to help give the clubs a sparkle. On the ground the Club Scrub weighs

6.5 kilograms and could be screwed to a sunken wooden post or a concrete pad. To wash a Club you simply push the club head into the opening at the top and push up and down a couple of times and withdraw the club.

www.jameskeyserproducts.co.uk

www.masseyferguson.com

NEW MODELS

A new addition has just been unveiled to the UK market by Lamberhurst Engineering, the UK distributor of Ferrari tractors - the New Vega EP series.

The new models have been created with high performance engines and greatly reduced emissions, gearboxes that are suitable for a range of uses and an increase in reliability and functionality.

08456 121 141
www.lameng.com



LONGER LIFE

A major fencing company, AVS Fencing Supplies Ltd, is launching a range of timber fence posts that have been through a brand new treatment process for longer life.

All too often gardeners and landscapers are horrified to discover that fence posts have rotted and failed after only a few short years in service.

Using carefully selected pine (redwood) posts which have been kiln dried (to around 28% moisture content) these are treated with a special ACQ treatment process to give the fence posts virtually total protection from fungal decay and insect damage.

The new AVS posts have a lifespan of at least 15 years and AVS Fencing are supporting this with a new guarantee.

www.avsfencing.co.uk/retail



NEW CHART-TOPPING PERENNIAL RYEGRASS

New into Limagrain UK's MM range of grass seed mixtures for winter sports pitches this year are two new high scoring perennial ryegrass cultivars: Madrid and Milan.

Madrid is the top perennial ryegrass in STRI's Turfgrass Seed 2009 table for Sports Uses with a mean score of 8.4. It also has the best scores for: live ground cover, visual merit, recovery and shoot density. It also has excellent disease resistance to red thread.

Milan follows closely behind with a mean score of 7.9 putting it third place on the STRI list, with joint highest score with Madrid, for recovery, and very good disease resistance (score of 6.4).

01522 861300



BUG SHIRT

Midge Guard is the official UK Distributor of the recently launched Original Bugshirt®.

Made from a light-weight but extremely densely woven fabric, the loose fitting design and specialised materials used in the construction of the Bug Shirt, protects the wearer from biting insects and from being bitten.

Designed and made in Canada (where mosquitoes and biting flies are a national menace), the Original Bug Shirt is designed to protect against biting insects such as; mosquitoes, midges, black flies, no-see-ums, deer flies, horse flies and ticks so common to Northern Europe, the Americas, Tropics and most of the rest of the world.

www.midgeguard.co.uk
0844 5617059



Safety Management System



RJ International Golf Course

The BIGGA/GCMA Safety Management System, sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen, has been developed to:

- Make golf clubs safer
- Introduce best practice
- Standardise Health & Safety throughout golf
- Reduce costs for golf clubs

Why do you need a Safety Management System?

Because:

- It incorporates all your legal requirements to comply with Health & Safety Legislation
- Clubs have responsibilities
- There are penalties for not complying – up to £20,000 fine and/or course closure
- Golf clubs are hazardous places to work

The Safety Management System contains help and guidance to enable golf clubs to:

- Set a Health & Safety Policy
- List hazards and assess risks
- Plan for the future
- Introduce audit and review procedures

The Safety Management System is accessed through the Members area of the BIGGA website (www.bigga.org.uk) and the GCMA website (www.gcma.org.uk)

sponsored by



Section Notes

Please email your notes to
melissa@bigga.co.uk
by the 5th
of the month

All the latest news from your Section

Around The Green



Scottish Region



Ayrshire

West Kilbride Golf Club was the venue for the Spring Outing on the last day of April. As the day approached so did the rain!

On arrival we resigned ourselves to a wet afternoons golf, but somehow after the first few groups played a few holes with umbrellas the rain stopped and we had a great bit of weather for the remainder of the day!

All 38 participants had an enjoyable time and our thanks go to the Club Captain and committee for allowing us the course and facilities on the day.

The catering team were excellent and really looked after us.

A big thanks also to Jim Paton and Mick Byrne and the lads for all their hard work in having the links so well presented, especially with the recent inclement weather.

Results were as follows:

1.1. S. Higgins, Ardeer GC, 41pts; 1.2. W. McMeikan, Turnberry GC, 39pts; 1.3. G. Morrison, Largs GC, 38pts; 2.1. G. Wilson, Western Gailes GC, 37pts; 2.2. S. Sharkey, Irvine GC, 34pts; 2.3. P. Tulloch, Irvine GC, 31pts. Trade Prize - A. Cruickshanks, Daval GC, 33pts.

Greenkeepers from all Sections are invited to a walk of the Ailsa Course on July 1.

We plan to set off at 5pm, so see y'all there!

Adios amigos!

Denis Tweddell
denis.t@hotmail.co.uk



Central

The Section held a very enjoyable Spring Outing at Scotsraig Golf Club on April 30 and wishes to thank Scotsraig for allowing us to be their guests for the day and congratulate Course Manager, George Pendrich, for having the course in such fine condition. A total of 48 players competed including four retired greenkeepers from Sweden who happened to be in the area for the week and came along as guests.

The principal prizewinners were: Scratch, Archie Dunn, Auchterarder GC, 74pts; Best handicap, Iain Sinclair, St Andrews GC, 75-8=67. Caterory 1 hcp winner, Gordon Moir, St Andrews, 77-4-73 and category 2 hcp winner, Gordon McKie, St Andrews, 89-16-73. Messrs Sinclair and McKie won the best two combined scores from the same club and Quentin Allardice, from TIS Scotland, won the trade prize. The full results can be found on our website www.biggacentralsection.org.uk

Finally, a special thanks to Siobhan Allardice for helping get the players off the 1st tee and for collecting the cards at the finish.

The Section has a couple of educational events planned for the autumn where we really require the support of the members. First up is a half day disciplinary training course for Course Managers, Head Greenkeepers or Deputies and this will take place at Elmwood, on October 26, prior to the AGM. It will take you through the process of investigating an incident and determining if disciplinary action is required and how to follow the correct procedure.

The trainers, Pitchblue Int, offer practical, easy to follow and essential advice, vital skills to those managing staff. Then in November we plan to stage a two-day ecology management course run by Bob Taylor and other staff from the Ecology Unit of the STRI. This will be on exactly the same lines as the courses they run at Bingley every year which would cost an attendee something in the region of £700 to attend by the time they pay course fees, travel and accommodation. If we can get 20 to 25 people to commit, we would hope to run it for a cost of around £150. Graeme Taylor, Course Manager of the Jubilee course was an attendee last year and found it to be one of the best training courses he had been on with a lot of practical examples which he has been able to transfer onto his golf course. More details of both courses will appear on the website shortly.

Gordon Moir



East

I start this month's report on a sad note by announcing the passing of Dick Dugan after a long illness. A retired Head Greenkeeper of Glencorse Golf Course, Penicuik, Edinburgh and Life Member of BIGGA, Dick was a great supporter of all the golf events in our Section.

Dick was a great character in the profession and I am sure all that knew Dick had a funny story to tell - he will be sadly missed by many, our thoughts go out to Dick's family.

Our Spring Meeting was held at Eyemouth golf course on Tuesday, April 14 courtesy of Bob Wortley and his committee.

We were very fortunate to have good weather on the East coast and the golf course was in great condition. A special thank you must go to Mark Pagan, Head Greenkeeper, and his staff for the way the course was presented for us on the day.

Looking down through the prize list, the Eyemouth boys did a good job on the cleaning up of the prizes. My question is when do they get time to practise their golf, or are they just natural born sportsmen.

I was fortunate with the draw in playing with the local greenkeeper, Dougie, who clubbed me for most of the round. Managing to win the sweep money from the Rigby Taylor boy's Big Gary and Jim - cheers guys I am sure you both will put in for expenses for that day.

Nice to see Graham Wood and his wife, Helen, at the meal, presentation of prizes and raffle, thanks Stuart for bringing both along. Our grand raffle! I think just about everybody went home with something. A big thank you to the trade who kindly donate the prizes for our raffle on the day.

We hope to see more faces at our Summer Outing - The Willie Woods Trophy - where members can invite a guest along as a partner - the venue for this is Kingsknowe GC.

Our tireless Secretary, Stuart Ferguson, will keep you all posted with this event.

All the winners: Spring Meeting at Eyemouth GC; Scratch Winner, 78pts, Benn McLeod, Gullane GC. 1st Class Winner 80-7-73; Tom Murray, Ratho Park GC; R/up 85-5-78; Mark Pagan, Eyemouth GC; 2nd Class Winner, 83-9-78; Douglas Greenshields, Eyemouth GC; R/up 88-13-75; Ian Watson, Gullane GC; 3rd Class Winner (92-19-73), Bob Wortley, Eyemouth GC; Veteran Winner, 79-5-74; Alistair Holmes, Seahouses GC; Patrons' Winner 83-13-72; Stewart Clayton, Greensman

Ltd; Novelty winners: Nearest The Pin - Douglas Greenshields; Longest Drive - Marl Pagan, Both Eyemouth GC.

Until next month.
Tom Murray



North

Hi there, hope you are all well and that your respective courses are busy. Most of you will be gearing up to your clubs championships. Remember, nothing less than perfect will do for the members, you know what they're like!

I have just sat down in front of the computer to write and I can still feel the wind whistling through my hair and ears. How windy was that! Just standing up to hit the ball was proving difficult for most of us. That seemed to be the most common excuse on the day. I think that you'll all agree that the course was in great condition and that Neil Sadler and his squad presented it perfectly. We couldn't blame that so what other excuses were made. One of the guys I was playing with took six shots to get out of one of the bunkers, mentioning no names, Stuart Robertson, from Craighiehill GC, in Perth. Despite the windy conditions it was a fine day and we all made it round dry. Maybe it was the fine smell coming from the back of the 3rd tee, who knows? We had a good turn out of 53 guys so thank you for that.

The results are as follows: Nearest the Pin - 5th - Jim McCormack, 8th - Robert Hardie and 12th - Kevin Spowart. Sweep - 4th Gary McCandless, 3rd Kev Spowart, 2nd Geo Mitchell and 1st Stew Brown. Apprentice Trophy - Greg Paterson, Trade - Gar McCandless, Guest - Terry Kennedy (Portlethen Club Captain), Committee Trophy - Ben Brookes, Veterans Trophy - 1st James McCormack, 2nd Hugh McClatchie. Class 3 - 14-28 Handicap: 1st Dave Robertson, 2nd Hugh McClatchie, 3rd Greg Paterson. Class 2 - 7-13 Handicap: 1st Stewart Brown, 2nd Kev Spowart, 3rd Paul Sharp. Class 1 - 0-6 Handicap: 1st Geo

Mitchell, 2nd Patrick Wood, 3rd Derek Geen. Scratch - 1st Gary Tough, 2nd Neil Sadler.

A big thank you to everyone that turned up. It was good to see everyone and also to see some new faces, long may it continue. The next outing we have for the North Section is at Alyth GC on September 17. You should all have received your forms in the envelope that Dale sent out at the beginning of April. In the meantime there is the little matter of the Scottish at Cathkin Braes in June. Anyone wishing to play in that should contact Peter Boyd on: 07776242120.

This year the greenkeepers have managed to put two teams into the local trades competition at Hazelhead GC, in Aberdeen. The second team of pairs made up of Derek Green, Royal Aberdeen, and Robert Hardie, Craibstone, with Dicky Pirie, Newmachar, and Ryan Stott, Craibstone, making up the other pair.

Unfortunately the first pairing got beaten by 1 hole and the second pair got thumped by 10 holes. Out of the last 11 holes they lost 9 of them. Hard luck lads we can always rely on the first team or can we. We'll have to find out next month.

Two young lads on the move are Ryan Stott and Scott Davidson. Ryan has made the move from Newmachar across to join Robert at Craibstone. Good Luck Ryan. Scott has joined Royal Aberdeen after a somewhat world tour from America to Australia to the council bowling greens of Aberdeen. He started by working on the Ohio State Uni programme and in that internship worked at Sea Island Golf in Georgia.

He then spent six months working in Australia and the highlight for him was working at the Australian Masters. He then came back to sunny Aberdeen (why?) and worked for the council on their bowling greens until a greenkeeping position became available that suited. Good luck Scott.

That's all for this month people, hopefully if we can get half the amount of info for future articles then we'll be winning. Thanks for your time.

Ben Brookes
Murcar Links
07813889374

Northern Region



North East

On April 22, we held our Spring Competition at Whitley Bay GC. I believe that's our first visit, or maybe we have been there for another competition a while ago because the last time I was there the trees were not that big and there was hardly any gorse.

Anyway, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, although there were one or two regulars who couldn't make it due to work commitments, but at least the weather was good as were the course and the meal. Thanks to Head Greekeeper, Graham Smith, and the committee for giving us courtesy of their course.

Thanks also to the following sponsors: T.S.L. represented by Terry Charlton and Alan Morton; Greenlay of Cramlington; Simon Holmes of Lloyds of Throckley; Aitkens, Shorts of Whitburn and thanks also to John Moutrie for the wine.

Results: Best Gross - Jordan Gibson, The Northumberland GC, 75pts; Best Nett - Kevin Dinsdale, The Northumberland GC, 71pts; Alan Ingles, Newcastle Utd GC, 72pts; Peter Anderson, Newcastle Utd GC, 72pts; James Storey, Alnmouth GC, 73pts.

One other thing that needs mentioning - people who have won the top prizes in previous years have not returned the silverware, please could they get them back to me somehow - maybe through a rep, I'm sure they wouldn't mind collecting them. For this competition I was two trophies short, the people responsible will be getting a letter shortly.

As you are aware a new championship course is being built at Close House, work had started at the end of April and the course is being designed by Turner Macpherson Golf Design. It is to be created in the style of English Golf course architect, Harry Colt, who was responsible for the likes of Wentworth, Royal Portrush and Sunningdale to

name but a few. Measuring at 6841 yards from the championship tees, the new course will consist of 11 par 4's, four par 3's, three par 5's and is a par 71.

The course is expected to open in spring 2011 and aptly named The Colt. Visitors will get to appreciate the many historic features of the site including the stone walls, ancient monuments, the woodlands and the ice lake and I can tell you that it's well worth a visit.

Jimmy Richardson



Northern

As I sit writing this month's report, while simultaneously reviewing the results of the recent Spring Tournament at Pannal, I can't believe my eyes. Alan Baxter in Division 2, and Ken Christie won Nearest the Pin! I'm wondering now if these results are a wind up!

The Spring Tournament took place on April 29 at Pannal, with a very good turn out of 40 members playing the fantastic course. The results on the day were: 1.1. Rob Bradley; 1.2. Rob Turner; 1.3. Stuart Mason; 2. 1. Alastair Holroyde; 2.2. Alan "I should be in Division 1" Baxter; 2.3. Frank Stewart; 3.1. Andy Scaman; 3.2. Dennis "President" Cockburn; 3.3. Mike Bussey; Trade - 1. Tito Arana; 2. Adrian Holroyde. Nearest the Pin - 10th Ken "Tiger" Christie and 17th Stuart Mason.

A huge thank you to both Bayer and Sherriff Amenity for their sponsorship of the day, and a massive thank you also to all the staff at Pannal for producing a fantastic course and looking after us in the clubhouse.

The next event on the golfing calendar is President's Day, which is to be held at Branshaw Golf Club on July 1. As with Pannal, I will require names and payment at least one week before the event.

This year's match against the Sheffield Section is to take place on July 21, at Abbeydale Golf Club. This is a free day out which is kindly sponsored by Rigby Taylor, if you wish to be in the 12 man team which beats

Sheffield, please get in touch ASAP.

I will finish this month by mentioning that the date for this year's Golf Management Trophy has been moved slightly and will now take place on Wednesday, August 12. Invitations will be sent to golf clubs nearer the time.

Adam Speight
Tel 07739 319060



Cleveland

Hello everyone, sorry for not getting any news in the magazine last month, there wasn't any to report and by the time we had our spring golf tournament, it was too late.

I am sure everyone enjoyed the warmish weather in April and hopefully everyone got their spring maintenance carried out ready for the on-slought of grass cutting, and busy fixtures.

The spring golf tournament was held on Tuesday, April 7, at Blackwell Grange Golf Club, Darlington. It was a fantastic day, with reasonable weather and one of the best-attended golf days in recent years.

There was just over 30 people taking part and for only £14 a round of golf and a meal, you can't grumble for that. The day was very kindly sponsored by Toro and Kubota, in conjunction with Lloyd Limited of Bishop Auckland. Thanks Alistair and Simon for your continued support.

The course was in great condition and it was clear to see that Terry and his staff had worked hard in preparing the course for us so thank you Terry. Thankfully the weather was ok, and we managed to complete all 18 holes this time around, unlike last year when the weather was foul.

A big thank you must also go to Blackwell Grange for allowing us courtesy of the course and the use of their facilities. Also, thank you to the catering staff for a great meal

The results are as follows: Overall winner on the Day: Dave Cuthbertson; 1. D. Cuthbertson 36pts; R. Hood 32pts; M.

McCarrick 32pts; 2. S. Russel 35pts; O. Shepard 34pts; R. Pybus 34pts (decided on back 9); 3. Terry (Hasselhoff) Harrison S. Price. K. Scarce; Nearest the Pin - D. Simpson; Longest drive - M. McCarrick. The trade prize was won by Spuggy, from Sunderland.

The much sought after Antand Dec Trophy was fiercely battled out between two notorious rivals over 18 grueling holes, finally the winner was declared and the victorious Jamie Applegarth spared no time in celebrating his victory over Alister Whitby.

Thanks also to the following companies for providing prizes: Tacit, Sheriff Amenity, Turfcare, Rigby Taylor, Scotts, Border Sports and Boxer Chemicals. Sorry if I have missed any out.

We were also kindly joined by Peter Larter, from BIGGA, who made the journey up from Lincolnshire to share a few words with members and enjoy a round of golf.

Finally, a bit of news. Richie Hood is looking forward to his new appointment as Course Manager at Sharpley Springs Golf Club. Richie has been Head Greenkeeper at Mount Oswald for many years and we wish him all the best for the future at his new course.

The autumn tournament is taking place at Durham City Golf Club, on Wednesday, October 7. Details will follow but if there is as much interest in the autumn tournament as the spring one then you will need to get your name down quick.

A seminar is being held at Redcar Golf Club on Thursday, July 9, and it will be on the subject of "Sustainability".

The event is being run in conjunction with the R&A and the GTC. It is a hot topic at the moment and I am sure it will be a very interesting day.

There are very limited places so if you are interested please contact Ian Pemberton on: 07791695768.

Finally, thanks to David Snowdon for holding the talk on the 'Use and Abuse of Wetting Agents' back in February.

The evening went very well and was very informative.

Any news, please contact:
Kevin Scarce
07921817857
kevscarce@aol.com



Sheffield

Hello again everyone. Firstly I would like to give a big congratulations to Steve Hume and his wife, Liz, on the birth of their first child, Megan. Steve was once a member of the Sheffield Section and worked at Wortley GC and he currently works at Murrayfield GC. Once again, congratulations to Steve and family from everyone in the Sheffield Section.

On the Section front I would like to thank everyone who played at Hallowes in our spring competition - I'm sure everyone who played will have had a good day. I will give a full list of the results in next month's magazine.

The BIGGA Regional Management Trophy event will this year be held at Renishaw GC on August 12. Course Managers will all be sent invitations in the near future.

Finally, I'm sure as you read this we will be in a major heat-wave, it seems that whenever I pick up a paper or turn on the TV and I am constantly reminded that we are in for a 'glorious' Summer.

I hope this becomes true because I believe that we deserve a good one after the past couple of years.

I hope everything is going well on all your courses and I will speak to you all next month.

James Stevens



North Wales

Hello again. God my back's a little achy. We had the Graden deepscarifier in at the end of April to do all our greens - two to three tons of kiln dried sand in and two to three tons of sun-baked, rain hammered sub structure out of every green, three days and a lot of greenkeepers (and I must admit some volunteer help) hours later and the results are showing already.

The spring tournament took place at Rhyl Golf Club on May 20, a full run down of results and the day will be posted in next month's column.

Anyone sending in their CPD claims must do so by the end of this month for them to count for this year's certificate.

The annual North Wales/North West match takes place at Bolton Golf Club, on June 10, best of sporting luck to both teams (but come on North Wales!).

In local news Pat McAteer, of Nefyn Golf Club, celebrated 25 years on the greenstaff recently and in appreciation of his hard work and loyalty the club presented him with a Tag Heuer watch. Very nice!

Also at Porthmadog Golf Club, Gareth (Bronco) Williams celebrated 25 years in green-keeping but as far as I know he wasn't given a flashy watch, but I may be wrong! If any of you are celebrating a special anniversary or your club has a centennial coming up let us know and we'll share it with the rest of the Section as good news is made to be shared.

All the best until next month
Pete Maybury
petemayb66@aol.com
or 07756001187
Johnny Evans
Johnny.evans@tesco.net

Midland Region



Midland

Well here I am again desperately trying to think of something to write about for our notes. Yes, our notes! Come on now, some information of who and what is happening in your area would make our notes far easier to compose and of greater interest. You don't have to even speak to me, just email me: sean.mcdade@homecall.co.uk. I shan't hold my breath.

And now for the news, our spring event was held at Wychwood Golf Club, our gratitude to the club for their very fine and welcoming hospitality. What a fantastic test of golf in such beautiful surroundings, and

such high standards of playing quality and presentation. A huge thank you to Jonathon Falmer (Golf Director) for arranging the day. Also a "respect" to Ashley Oaks, Head Greenkeeper, and his obviously excellent team for preparing the course to such a high standard, superb guys.

Now for the results: Division one (Gross): G. Turner. Division two (Nett): 1. G. Cunningham. 2. G. Turner. 3. R. Thomas. 4. S. Scott. 5. Brougham. 6. J. Ganley. Division Three (Trade): T. Cheese. Division four (Longest Drive & Nearest the Pin): A. Moss and S. Scott respectively.

The Premier Division title must go to the day's main sponsors: Graham Glead & New Holland - they were the saviours of our spring event as they stepped in at the eleventh hour to sponsor the event.

Also, thanks very much to Whitemoss/Mike Whitehouse and Andy Law for providing us with our ever perused new score boards. Sustenance and refreshments around the course, coupled with the ever enjoyable banter was kindly delivered by those two lovably rogues Kevin and Rob of Turner Groundscare.

Our thanks to Nigel Tyler/Sherriff Amenity for sponsoring Longest Drive & Nearest the Pin. And finally thanks to our ever suffering Mr. Starter, Mr. President, alias Sir John Hammond.

Our next event is to be held at one of my old haunts, Harborne Golf Club on Wednesday, July 8. I can assure you it is a lovely track, so get your entries in to Gary as soon as possible. The demand, I'm sure will be great. Jim, best be getting that whip out mate.

And finally, a monumental thank you to this month's calendar page sponsor; Turner Groundscare: www.turnergroundscare.co.uk

Please consider them for your machinery requirements by calling one of the boys: Kev Pugh, David Shepherd or Rob page (please don't throw your dolly out of the pram Rob).

Well that's all folks
Sean McDade

Section Notes

Please email your notes to melissa@bigga.co.uk by the 5th of the month



East of England

Hello all. Summer is well and truly here and brings with it the usual headaches we all have grown to expect. April was a strange month with 13mm of rain in total and temperatures ranging from 0 to 20 degrees. At least all these fluctuations have slowed down the usual spring flush of growth, the rough is only growing at half an inch per day instead of one!" The dry spell hasn't helped fantastic quick recovery from mid-April greens renovation work, but everything is slowly coming along thanks to the help of "artificial rain!"

"The hottest driest summer on record beckons" I hear you all say. I leave you with this thought, in 2007 we had 5mm of rain in April, followed by 331mm in June, don't get too excited just yet! Our first Section golf day of the year was held on April 22 at Toft Golf Club. A good turnout enjoyed good weather and an excellently presented course. The winning greenkeeper on the day was Rob Bemment with 38 points and the winning trade member was Gary Cooper, also with 38 points. Longest Drive was won by Rob Bemment and Nearest the Pin was won by Tim Harris. Congratulations to all. Many thanks go to all at Toft Golf Club for making us feel so welcome and providing excellent facilities throughout the day. Thanks also go to Gavin Merrierson and Colliers for sponsoring the day.

Our June golf day is at Kenwick Park Golf Club on Thursday, June 25. Tee off is 1:30 but arrive early for coffee and bacon rolls. Full details will be sent to you soon.

Many thanks Steve Beverly, Immingham Golf Club stevimmingham@aol.com www.eastofenglandbigga.com

Berks/Bucks & Oxon

Golf! A full house! As the best of the BBO took on a pure delight in the heart of the Cotswolds and a fantastic venue to start the season at Burford GC, which was host to the Spring National Qualifier

Competition on April 30. Burford GC, designed by J.H. Turner, the then professional at Frilford Heath GC, opened for play in May of 1936 and since then has many a fascinating tale of history to date.

The course found instant success but with the outbreak of the Second World War saw part of the course ploughed up for cereal production to aid the war effort and was eventually restored in 1949. The farmer who had cultivated and reaped the harvest during that time presented the club with Harvest Cup, which is competed for annually, and I can re assure you all that cornflake production has certainly ended at Burford.

This beautiful course masked by trees that lined the fairways with astute bunkering around some of the greens offered us a challenging start to the golfing season, on perfectly manicured surfaces that provided us with a stiff challenge which was reflected in our scorecards.

The results were as follows: winner of The Claret Jug in 1. Ross Cook, Blue Mountain GC; 2. Shaw Engling, Blue Mountain GC; 3. David Jones, Tadmarton Heath GC; 4. Nick Carrissi, Hennerton GC; 5. Barry Holt, Burford GC, 6. Mike Johnson, Henley GC, and Steve Austen, winning on countback with 106 on his card for the Longest Walk.

Barry Holt has qualified for the National Championship with a gross score of 75 - well done Barry!

Richard Fortmuller took the trade prize with a fantastic one under gross to show us all how it could be done even with the Pink Lady balls which he borrowed from Adam King.

To our main sponsor of the day, Tim Webb, from Tacit, and all the other trade which included Greensman, ETT, Sport Equipment, Terralift, Gem, Rigby Taylor and Jon Beck for organising the halfway hut with his usual flair.

A big thank you to Burford GC for the courtesy of the course and Jonathan and Jose from the catering department for their gastronomic delights, which were well received, and to Course Manager, Barry Holt, and his staff for ensuring the course was as ever prepared and manicured to a first class standard.

Managing Secretary, Robin Thompson, for arranging courtesy and co-ordinating the day, which proved to be a great success.

Our next event is the summer tournament on June 18 at Oakland Park GC, where you will have the chance to meet John Pemberton, Chief Executive of BIGGA, who will be making his way down from head office in Yorkshire to attend the day, please make a date in your calendar for this event and check: bbogreenkeepers.co.uk for all the latest updates.

The Annual Rigby Taylor Match play knockout will now be well underway and the organiser, Gareth Acteson, will always be on hand to see that things run smoothly with results of the early rounds to be published in next month's report. Gareth can be contacted on: 07734 856 924.

Adam King, the Section Secretary, has worked hard to ensure that events run smoothly and are organised to a high standard, so please show your appreciation by sending in your cheques on time for the next golf day, news, as ever, has slowly been dribbling in from far and wide over the three counties and if any member has any views they would like to share, or would like more information about the section and forthcoming events, please contact Adam King at: bbogreenkeepers.co.uk

Mark Day
markday@tacitgolf.co.uk



Mid-Anglia

As I write this report it is well and truly springtime and personally, I can't think of anywhere else I would rather be at this time of year. The cold, wet, dark days of winter are long gone, there has already been some nice weather, the evenings are staying lighter and the golf courses are literally bursting into life. And there is always the anticipation that, this year, summer is going to be glorious.

It always amazes me how so many golfers have such short memories about what conditions in spring can be like and

I hope sincerely that not too many of you have had the usual annual discussions/ moans about uneven growth and the dreaded "Augusta" factor. By the time you have read this it will no doubt have been long forgotten, until spring next year.

Our spring competition and annual qualifier for the National Championship was held at Hatfield London Club and spring had most definitely sprung there too. The weather was absolutely fantastic for the healthy contingent of Mid-Anglian golfers and the presentation of the golf course positively surpassed the weather. Congratulation to Craig Gibson and his small, dedicated team for presenting us with a truly superb course.

The day was generously sponsored by Darren Mugford of Rigby Taylor who was sidelined through injury, hang those boots up mate! It was also Darren's first day back to work after taking some paternity leave for the birth of the second of his two children, James. Many congratulations to you and your family.

Onto the results, in first place with 39 pts was Steve "Gringo" Mason, of Stocks GC; Gerald Bruce, from Berkhamsted GC, was second with 36 pts and in third on 35 pts was Ollie Browning, also from Stocks GC. Longest Drive went to Rob Catlin, from Pareto, and Nearest the Pin went to Woburn GC's Pete Rutt. Yours truly won the trade prize, even a blind dog stumbles across a bone every now and then.

Very many thanks to Hatfield London Club for hosting us, not only was the golf course excellent, but the hospitality and generosity afforded to us was equally admirable. The sauna and Japanese baths are not to be missed.

Thanks also to the usual trade suspects for supporting the day, it is very much appreciated.

The next meeting is yet to be confirmed but is likely to be at Knebworth GC in July/ August. Mid-Herts GC host us in the autumn on October 7 and we go to John O'Gaunt GC in December for the Turkey Trot. If you or your staff are interested in participating in any courses or training programs, please contact Gerald @ Berkhamsted GC to enquire further. There is quite often funding available and if not already catered for,

special training/ courses can be arranged.

Craig Spooner

craig.spooner@limagrain.co.uk

South East Region



Surrey

Sunday May 3. I am once again using my conservatory as an office in which to write this month's communiqué and the rain, although not expected according to the weather forecast, is pounding on the polycarbonate roof, interrupting my train of thought and will, if I'm not careful, turn my usual words of wisdom into rubbish.

So what's new? I hear you ask after reading my previous attempts at satire and humour. Well, I'll tell you what's new and you will all appreciate the predicament in which I now find myself. I have been appointed, by her indoors, to investigate, choose and book this year's holiday. I may have brought this on myself, by not in the past, fully appreciating the difficulties involved in choosing a holiday and by making the smallest of complaints about the resort, the food, the room and the weather. I am now well and truly in it up to my neck. Initially I accepted the responsibility with open arms expecting some bright and new ideas to flood to my assistance. I have kept reading weekly travel articles in the Saturday papers hoping to find that holiday of a lifetime but nothing has stirred my loins until Mexico. So it's not difficult, with all the latest about swine flu, to understand why its back, this coming week, to the good old Isle of Wight. Full details will follow next month.

Did you know that the Mini is 50 years old on May 8 2009. The first production model came off the line at Cowley, Oxfordshire in 1959 and had the registration number 621 AOK. I was seventeen when I had my first car, a Mini, reg no 9814 PF. It was light blue and rocketed with its 850cc engine from 0 to 60mph eventually. Happy birthday Mini and any greenkeeper who has the same birthday will win a

surprise birthday present if they text me with the details.

It's now 5.45pm and time to close this month's copy but please remember that I only have pity for those who have managed to finish this article and only respect for those who didn't start it.

Brian Willmott

07879474038



Kent

Hi Guys. I haven't got any news for you this month unfortunately so this is going to be very brief!

By now, with summer in full swing and hoards of golfers adorning our pristine fairways, we have all, hopefully, put all thoughts of the long, wet winter behind us. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said of the economic climate and I know some courses are struggling for revenue. I hope you are all able to ride out the storm soon and be back stronger as a result.

As a slight diversification from the norm, at Birchwood we have instigated an environmental plan to try and encourage some more indigenous species to breed and flourish in specially created habitats. Not only does this benefit the golfers as they get to see more of a natural environment, it also raises the profile of the course within the community. Being environmentally friendly (and having evidence to back up any such claim) is essential, especially at this time of year when we are perceived to be the devil incarnate as we lavish copious amounts of water onto our courses. Anything we can do to promote our roles as professional custodians of the land being prudent with the natural resources could prove to be an invaluable tool when times get tough. After all, less than 10 percent of the population plays golf so the non-golfing majority has a right to know that a golf course will be a good neighbour.

Anyway, as I said earlier I haven't got any news for you this month but I look forward to seeing you all in a couple of weeks at Lullingstone Park. Results to follow next month.

Thanks to Tacit and Turfcare Solutions for recently coming on board as sponsors for our section. Please call me with any info you want included in this column.

Enjoy the summer while it lasts!

Best of British

Rob Holland

07843 410755

kentgreenkeepers.co.uk



Essex

The Committee wishes to inform the Section that Don Clark has decided to stand down from the position of Chairman. His hard work was very much appreciated and we wish to thank him for all he did for the Section, over his years as Chairman. The position will be up for nomination at the next AGM in December. We have decided that as a committee we will continue over the next months up until the AGM, when all officers will be up for re-election.

Hot news in Essex at the moment is, that there has been a spate of break-ins at local clubs. The equipment being taken seems on the whole to be small hand machinery, but losing half a dozen or so of those can cost you £3-5,000. Clubs that have been hit include, The Essex, Gosfield Lake, Maldon and Three Rivers. Maldon Golf Club having been hit twice in one month, Police investigations continue.

The Essex Spring Trophy Golf Day was held at Colne Valley Golf Club, on Wednesday, May 13. We would like to thank Tom Smith and his Mother for the great day that they put on for us. Although we could have done without Gods watering system, coming on over the whole course for most of the time we were out playing. The most annoying thing is that only a mile or so, south of us, they had none at all. C'est la vie.

Thanks to Tom and his green-keeping staff for presenting the course in such a fine state, (the greens were very deceptive) and to the catering staff for the fine spread that was put on after the golf. The Vice Captain, Mr Tony

Beadle, presented the prizes, for which we were very grateful. He also joined us out on the course and played a mean round of golf I'm told.

Overall winner of the Spring Trophy plus entrance to the BIGGA National Championship - Adam Millward, Orsett Golf Club 34 points. 1.1 Tom Smith, Colne Valley Golf Club, 33 pts; 1.2 Antony Kirwan, Lexden Wood Golf Club, 32 pts; 2.1 Ian Wood, Romford Golf Club, 33 pts; 2.2 Simon Cairns, Lexden Wood Golf Club, 32 pts. Guest Prize, Paul Holloway, 39 pts. Trade Prize, Neil Peachey, P Tuckwell Ltd, 38 pts. Nearest the Pin went to Mark Stopps on the 11th and Tom Smith on the 17th.

Your next golf day is Tuesday, June 23, at Burnham-on-Crouch Golf Club, and is nearly due. This is the summer trophy, so look out for the entry forms, they are on the website and we will also be sending them both by post and email. I have said it before but we would prefer to send them by email, as the cost of postage to the Section is astronomical, so please could you send me your e-mail addresses as soon as possible.

We have some new sponsors in our section for 2009: Golf Mats UK - Grasshopper Horticultural - Limagrain UK and Tey Farm Systems, full details are on the website. They join the following sponsors from last year: Avoncrop Amenity Products, Bailey's of Norfolk Ltd, Banks Amenity Products Ltd, Blade Amenity Ltd, CMW Equipment Company Ltd, Collier Turf Care, Ernest Doe, GM Amenity, Headland Amenity Products, LiquiTec™-Fieldfare Amenity, Prime Irrigation Ltd, Rigby Taylor, Scotts, P, Tuckwell Ltd, Vitax and Writtle College.

We would like to welcome the new sponsors and old ones alike to our Section and thank them for their support.

We have all the up to date news on our website, keep watching the site. It's a great way of finding out what's happening around the section.

The new picture gallery shows what a great day we had at Colne Valley and we will continue to keep the gallery's updated throughout the year.

Any information for inclusion on this page or on our website should be sent to me at essexbigga@talktalk.net or on 07764-

862.337. Also look us up. www.essexbigga.co.uk

Arnold Phipps-Jones
Press Officer

South West & Wales



South West

I have to start this month's report with a double-dose of bad news, by reporting on two unfortunate accidents recently suffered by Section members. Alistair Turner, Deputy Course Manager at Thornbury Golf Centre suffered a broken leg and Roger Neale, Deputy Course Manager at Taunton & Pickering has broken a metatarsal. Both are likely to be out of action for a little while, and we wish them a speedy and complete recovery.

I was recently involved in a "Sustainable Golf Day" at Cannington College where I joined Richard Whyman, Paul Lowe, Stuart Yarwood, Jane Leyland (Barenbrug Seeds) and Laurence Pithie in talking to students about our various different approaches to managing the golf course in today's economic conditions. It was very nice to meet Laurence Gale, from Pitchcare, who covered the day for the his magazine.

From Cannington, it was a quick dash over the bridge to Royal Porthcawl for the South Wales spring seminar. Steve Chappell put together a really good day with speakers such as Greg Evans, Ealing GC; Lee Strutt, G-West Development; Graham Roberts, Hankley Common, and Alan Patterson, from the Castle Course, St Andrews. It was really fascinating to listen to Alan and understand how the demand for a seventh course at "The Home of Golf" was met with this superb new development. For example - anyone living within the St Andrews Town has playing rights on the golf courses, and for £160 per year has access to all seven.

Here in the Section - Laurence Pithie has now retired from Crown Golf to start on his own as a consultant and trainer in

the industry. Laurence has a huge experience gained from running over 50 golf courses, and can help with staff training, safety, budgets etc. as well as agronomy and trouble-shooting. He is available on email at turfmasterone@aol.com and is ready to give advice as required. Crown Golf gave him a royal send-off with a lunch at Wentworth, and presented him with a useful prism gauge (with which he's keeping a close check on my heights of cut!)

Entry forms for the summer tournament at Kingsdown, on June 24, should now be with you - please let me know if you haven't received one. This will be a great day on a perfectly prepared golf course so please do make every effort to attend. Remember, it gives one player the opportunity to qualify for National Championship, which this year is in our Section at Burnham & Berrow in early October. The Scotts Management Trophy will follow, on July 15, at Filton, so keep a likewise sharp lookout for entry forms in the post shortly.

Meanwhile back at Minch, it has been a frustratingly slow start to the season - not short of daisies, greens still not at their best, member's very patient (mostly). Important not to lose the faith and try to push things on too far. I've recently had the pleasure of speaking to our members with a PowerPoint show about recent works and developments on the course. It went reasonably well with only a couple of thinly-veiled complaints at the end. Still important to go through the exercise and meet the members - 60-odd people turned up and had supper afterwards so also got some extra revenue through the club. If you don't do this at your own club but would like some assistance in setting things up, do give me a call.

Obviously times are hard in the industry, and BIGGA needs your support more than ever. Please make every effort to talk to greenkeepers you know who are not Association members - we are one profession and we need unity and solidarity more than ever. Any news you may have of local issues is also gratefully received.

A forward date for your diaries is September 30, for the BIGGA/GCMA business seminar at The

Kendleshire. And finally - we are offering Manual Handling Training and certification - a half-day course covering handling techniques and all relevant legislation. Give me a call if you're interested.

Paul Worster.
paulw@mgcnew.co.uk



South Coast

The spring tournament was played over the beautiful course of Parkstone and was in really great condition. The results are as follows: Played over 28 holes: 1.1 Joe Cooper, Milton Abbey GC, 65pts; 1.2 Alan Magee, Remedy Oak GC, 64pts; 1.3 Kevan Glass, Brokenhurst GC, 61pts. 2.1 Chris Bitten, Stoneham GC, 61pts; Paul Cooper, Parkstone GC, 60pts; Steve Christopher, Barton on Sea GC, 56pts; Overall winner of Chalky White Trophy, Joe Cooper, 65pts; Nearest the Pin, Chris Bitten, Longest Drive, Chris Bitten. Thanks to the sponsors Avoncrop & Parkstone GC for allowing you all to play.

Well hello to you all at what is now a very busy time for all of us! We at Andover Golf Club is playing catch up after holidays and bank holidays. How many of you were caught with disease in your greens this winter? I for one can't remember it so bad but we are now recovering.

I must remind you all about the The Isle of Wight meeting on October 1, it will be sponsored by our Section - therefore the golf and food will be free, all you have to do is get there, by ferry or fly!

Until next month
Chris Sturgess



South Wales

Hi Everyone. Hope you are all well and are still employed since the last 'Around The Green' Firstly I'm sure that those who

attended the excellent spring seminar at Royal Porthcawl Golf Club would like to thank all the speakers who came down and gave such great presentations. Maybe many came to listen to Greg Evans talk on 'The Short Cut To Better Greens' which has created a lot of interest and asks questions of traditionally held greenkeeping beliefs, which I think is a good thing. My favourite presentation though (they were all good, mind) was the one given by Allan Patterson, of The Castle Course at St Andrews. I just found it amazing how they turned a flat area of agricultural land into a very natural looking cliff top links -not only did they create a great looking golf course but they must have ticked all the boxes environmentally as well, so that even the most bearded of environmentalists would be happy (if that's possible!) Thanks go out to Richard Blizzard, of Soil Harmony, for sponsoring the day, to all the speakers for their time, to all the people who attended, to Royal Porthcawl GC for the use of their facilities (and a cracking lunch!) and to Steve Chappell for all his hard work in organising the event.

As promised, here is the draw for the 1st round of this year's Rigby Taylor Knockout which was made at the seminar: Tony Horne (14)/Martyn David (15) V Nigel Ruck (11)/Mel Leech (12) Mark Wiltshire (18)/Mark Anderson (1) V Peter Lacey (13)/Simon Lacey (24) Steve Price (15)/John Knight (5) V Darryl Bray (9)/Leigh Davies (11) James White (3)/Wayne Bengier (20) V Phil Thomas (15)/Stuart Jones (15) Steve Chappell (22)/Darryl Jones (5) V Rhys McDonough (0)/Gary Humphries (0) Huw Morgan (9)/Rob Williams (3) V Andy Roach (5)/Gareth Knight (18) Colin Thomas (15)/James Rees (18) V Steven Lloyd (6)/Mark Wells (11) Adrian Parsons (20)/Ceri Richards (18) V Paul Handy (13)/Rhys Norville (4) Marrison Griffiths (9)/Glyn Jones (5) V Jim McKenzie (9)/Alan Abel (10) - good luck everyone!

Steve has also asked me to thank the 14 people who attended the mole control training day at Neath GC recently and made the event such a big success. If you would like to attend a training day on chainsaws, abrasive wheels, tractor driving or something else that is relative to greenkeeping

then please contact Steve. If eight people or more apply for a particular course then funding can be available, so have a think about it!

Good luck to Jim McKenzie and his team for the preparation for this year's Wales Open (June 4-7) which is to be played on the Twenty Ten course. Jim is often interviewed by the press during the tournament, so whatever you do Jim, don't tell them any of your jokes! You make Chubby Brown sound PC!

Speaking of big golfing tournaments, one journalist described the Augusta course after The Masters as being 'The prettiest in the world' which prompted a response by a sports journalist from The Guardian, who wrote that the chap should go and visit St David's City Golf Club, in Pembrokeshire, before coming to that conclusion! I have to admit, I'm with the chap from The Guardian, It's only nine holes, but it is a beautiful course in a wonderful setting and John Phillips, Head Greenkeeper, produces consistently good greens. Best of all though, he makes a nice cup of coffee to enjoy the scenery with! He now has a copy of the article on the notice board in the clubhouse to remind all the members of how lucky they are!

Swansea City and Ospreys fans will be pleased to learn that Dan Duffy, Head Groundsman at The Liberty Stadium, was recently voted Championship Groundsman of the year for the 2008/9 season. Dan is one of the most dedicated Turf Managers that I know and thoroughly deserved the accolade. How he can produce such a good playing surface when both Rugby and Football are played on it (sometimes one after the other) is amazing - well done mate!

How long is your semi? That question was put to Julian Bartlett Jones by the Ladies section of Dinas Powys GC recently. Julian wasn't sure so they went out to measure it. They concluded that it could be left to grow longer to provide them with more of a challenge. When he got home and he relayed the day's events to his partner, Joanne, he found himself sleeping on the sofa! Funny creatures women! But then height of cut is an emotive subject!

Ceri Richards
celticceri@aol.com



John Pemberton
Chief Executive

All members should by now be aware that the Board has called a General Meeting of Members for Tuesday, June 16, to consider, and vote on, a change to the Constitution that will allow Groundsmen who are employed in the sports turf industry the opportunity to apply for Full and Associate categories of Membership of the Association.

All current members who are entitled to vote will have received a voting form by now and these are starting to be returned as I write. Please use your vote if you have not already done so, it is your Association and this is your chance to have a democratic say in its future.

At the March Board Meeting the structure of the Sub Committees was reviewed and it was agreed that more representation from outside of the Board would be sought in order to better engage the views of the Membership. In future, meetings will be held by way of mixture of conference calls and round-the-table meetings. In addition a series of sub-groups will be formed that will liaise with the relevant member of staff by e-mail in order to identify members' views. If you would like to be considered for inclusion in either of these then please forward your name and e-mail address to the appropriate member of staff as below:

General Purposes

Chairman, Mark Dobell
Staff member, Steve Wragg
e-mail: steve@bigga.co.uk

Membership

Chairman, Archie Dunn
Staff member, Tracey Maddison
e-mail: traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk

Learning & Development

Chairman, Jeff Mills
Staff member, Sami Collins
e-mail: sami@bigga.co.uk

Communications

Chairman, Tony Smith
Staff member, Scott MacCallum
e-mail: scott@bigga.co.uk

Environment

Chairman, Paul Worster
Staff member, Sandra Raper
e-mail: sandra@bigga.co.uk

John Pemberton
Chief Executive



Membership

Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership, provides a departmental update

We are pleased to advise you of a new benefit offered to BIGGA Full Members and to inform you of an enhancement to the Greenkeepers Support Helpline (Stress helpline).

Telephone Debt Counselling Helpline

Managing money well is sometimes overlooked in the pressures of our daily lives. As debt isn't just a finance issue, but one that feeds into all elements of our life, the solutions are wide and varied; whether it's cutting interest costs, budgeting, challenging the legality of our debts, or simply where to find real one-on-one help.

BIGGA Full Members can now talk about any financial concerns or worries through the Arc Legal 24/7 Debt Counselling Helpline.

Expert confidential help is at hand through their trained independent counsellors ready to assist with counselling, support, advice and help.

If your debt is complicated the counsellor can also direct your call to a team of specialist debt experts who will talk through the stages of prioritising the debts and steps to resolution.

Importantly, once you are managing your money concerns the support of the counsellors is available 24/7 to help you find better ways to control future spending and deal with money related issues.

The Debt Counselling Helpline is available to all Full Members, and partners, by calling 0800 174 319 24 hours a day seven days a week 365 days of the year and quote your BIGGA Membership number.

The Greenkeepers' Support Service (Stress Helpline)

This confidential, professional telephone counselling service is now available to all Full Members and their partner. The Greenkeepers' Support Service can work with a wide range of concerns from emo-

tional issues such as anxiety, stress, depression and low self-esteem to family and relationship issues marital and relationship problems, critical illness and bereavement, this list is not exhaustive.

One telephone call to this helpline could be all that someone needs to begin to manage their own problems and improve their situation.

EGM 16th June 2009 – Your Vote Counts

If you are eligible to vote then you should have now received your voting form to vote on the integration of sports turf grounds care staff into full membership of BIGGA. If you do not intend on coming along to the EGM on June 16, 2009, then please make sure you use your vote and return your form in the prepaid envelope provided by June 10, 2009.

Limited Company

On January 21, 2009, the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association (BIGGA) passed a resolution at its Annual General Meeting approving the conversion of BIGGA into a company limited by guarantee and authorising the Board of Management (the Current Board) to undertake such actions as are appropriate to facilitate such conversion, for full information see page 9 of this month's GI.

In conjunction with the conversion to a company limited by guarantee, we need your written consent for you to become a member of BIGGA Limited, you will shortly receive an application form in the post.

Please complete and sign the form and return it to Headquarters in the envelope supplied, to arrive no later than June 30, 2009 (Return Date).

If after reading the article on Page 9 you have any questions or queries don't hesitate to contact BIGGA HQ.



Contact Details

Tracey Maddison
traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk

Brad Anderson
brad@bigga.co.uk

Tel: 01347 833800
(option 1 for Membership)

BIGGA welcomes the following new members...

Scottish Region

Anthony Jinks, East
Malcolm Kydd, Central
Chris Murray, Central
Lewis Patchett, East
Colin Qua, Ayrshire
Craig Richardson, East
Jamie Robertson, North
Richard Watt, North

Northern Region

Ian Gibson, North Wales
Andrew Jackson, North Wales
David Povey, North Wales
Mark Rooney, North Wales
Neill Sidebotham, North West
Paul Stanley, North Wales

Midland Region

Glenn Dyer, Berks/Bucks & Oxon
Sam Evans, East Midland
Graham Henley, Berks/Bucks & Oxon
Ralph Holmes, East of England
Holly Jones, Mid Anglia
Paul Lawrence, Mid Anglia
Jonathan Ramsay, Berks/Bucks & Oxon
James Rawlings, Berks/Bucks & Oxon
Chris Watts, Mid Anglia
James Young, Midland

South East Region

Andrew Offord, East Anglia
Thomas Openshaw, Surrey
Ian Pettyfer, Kent
Roger Pluckrose, Kent
Tyler Rook, Sussex
Phil Rowlett, East Anglia
Michael Stott, Surrey

S West/S S Wales Region

Phillip Newens, South Coast
Richard Percy, South Coast
Christopher Sharp, South Wales
Sam Starling, South Wales

Northern Ireland

Andrew Foster
Timothy Graham
Wallace Wilmot

Regional Administrators



Peter Boyd Peter Larter



Clive Osgood Jane Jones

Peter Boyd
Scotland & Northern Ireland
Tel: 0141 616 3440
Mobile: 07776 242120
pj.boyd@btinternet.com

Peter Larter
Northern & Midland
Tel: 01476 550115
Mobile: 07866 366966
petelar972@aol.com

Clive Osgood
South East
Tel: 01737 819343
Mobile: 07841 948410
cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk

Jane Jones
South West & Wales
Tel: 01454 270850
Mobile: 07841 948110
janejones1@btconnect.com

OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS (Greenkeeper Members only)

Personal Accident Helpline
02075 603013

Greenkeepers Legal Assistance
0800 177 7891

Greenkeepers Support Services
0800 174 319

Debt Counselling Helpline
0800 174319



Assistant Profile

Each month we take a light hearted look into the life of an assistant greenkeeper...

Darts lover, Stuart, works at Carholme, or at least he did until his Course Manager reads this! He loves strimming, hates bunker raking and has met David Attenborough...

Name: Stuart Dallas
Age: 22
Golf Club: Carholme Golf Club
Position: Assistant Greenkeeper
Nickname: Dallas



How long have you been greenkeeping?

I have been greenkeeping for about three years now.

What was it about the career that attracted you?

When I left school I worked on a farm and was outside all the time, then I ended up working in a shop I did not like working inside so when the job came up at Carholme golf course I went for it and got it!

If you weren't a greenkeeper what do you think you'd be?

If I was not a greenkeeper I would possibly be working some where outside.

Which task do you most enjoy doing and why?

One of my favourite jobs is strimming. Sad I know but I find it quite therapeutic.

Which task do you least enjoy doing and why?

My least favourite job is raking bunkers. I find this job boring plus I find that alot of our bunkers lack sand thus making it harder to rake them.

What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers' lot?

One thing that could improve the greenkeeper's lot would be cheaper spraying solutions, i.e. for chafer grubs which our course suffers from a lot and is quite expensive to keep control of (or maybe a new course manager wouldn't go amiss!)

Hobbies?

I enjoy fishing and I am also quite partial to game of darts.

Favourite Band?

I don't really have a favourite band. I have quite a varied taste in music.

Which team do you support (football or otherwise)?

I don't follow football but do watch England in the Six Nations. I also watch the World Championship Darts, I especially enjoy watching Phil (The Power) Taylor.

What is your claim to fame?

My claim to fame is being in this magazine but I have met David Attenborough!

What's your number?

Our regular and random profile of an industry figure continues with this month's lucky number...

This month, Kubota's Dave Roberts comes under the spotlight



Name: Dave Roberts
Company: Kubota
Position: Sales & Marketing Manager – Kubota Tractor & Groundcare Products

How long have you been in the industry?

"20 years."

How did you get into it?

"I trained as an Agricultural Engineer, but joining Kubota took me into the grounds care industry."

What other jobs have you done?

"Various roles within Kubota, but in the commercial horticultural industry and on farms before that."

What do you like about your current job?

"Getting out of the office and meeting the very diverse customer base we deal with."

What changes have you seen during your time in the industry?

"Some changes in machinery trends like the propensity toward self propelled machinery versus tractors with implements in the golf sector, and the increase in the number of competitors!"

What do you like to do in your spare time?

"What's that...? golf (not often enough), motorcycling and holidaying."

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?

"Playing more golf, more motorcycling and more holidays... hopefully!"

Who do you consider to be your best friends in the industry?

"Too many to mention (yes...a cop out!)."

What do you consider to be your lucky number?

"29."

Pick a number

"29."

Dave has picked Tim Fell from Tillers Turf to take part next month

A QUICK GUIDE TO...

RECYCLING

Paul Worster, Course Manager at Minchinhampton Golf Club offers some tips on recycling

1. Identify Waste Streams

There are any number of waste streams within a golf club, most of which have the potential for at least some recycling - some of these stem from the golf course directly, others from the clubhouse, offices, pro-shop, or kitchen areas.

2. Adopt an Action Plan

This covers the whole company and sets a budget. Make no mistake - the polluter pays. Any recycling scheme needs to be financed, therefore it is essential to link and audit all areas of the club to ensure that anything that can be reduced or re-used is taken into account. Recycling ought actually to be the last resort.

3. Include the members

Members will be very keen to help with recycling if the right attitude is given, the right atmosphere projected, and the right facilities made available. For example, members can be invited to bring unwanted Christmas trees for shredding and disposal, and six months later can purchase the compost that has been produced from them, to improve their gardens.

4. Clubhouse Waste

This will include cardboard, paper, print cartridges and glass bottles. Cardboard and paper can either be shredded into compost, or taken away by a licensed contractor for recycling. In general, it is better to re-use paper and envelopes for notes and internal mail before recycling. Do not assume that the brewery automatically collects empty glass bottles - all too often these end up in landfill.

5. Golf Course Waste

This is generally grass clippings, branches, bunker edgings, hollow tine cores, leaves etc. This can be collected and

composted. Hard standing will make this task easier, and a covered area, or covered bays allow air movement and prevents the build-up of potentially harmful spores.

A chipper will be required and a front loader tractor for turning. Once a reasonable degree of decomposition has been achieved, this material can be moved to an out-of-the-way area for storage.

6. Golfer Waste

This includes scorecards, plastic bottles, banana skins etc. Provide a segregated unit in a convenient location, and members will sort their own rubbish.

Bare in mind that many pro-shops can sell 300 bottles over a weekend, so the facility must be large enough to cope. A small subsidy should be added to the cost of the drinks to finance the facility.

7. Mandatory Disposal of Waste

Some of your waste streams will include "hazardous materials" that will be covered by legislation which dictates that proper disposal is mandatory. In general, it is the golf course Workshop and Operations waste which falls into this category. The club will need a contract with a licensed contractor and a Hazardous Waste Producers Number from the Environment Agency, to allow even Waste Transfer to take place.

The contractor will then collect and recycle those items such as batteries, filters, used oil and empty plastic containers.

8. Reduce the amount of Hazardous Materials Produced

The less hazardous materials used, the less waste is produced for disposal or recycling. "Long-life" synthetic engine and hydraulic oils are available which need not be changed at standard service intervals. At service, the filter is replaced losing only a small amount of oil. Once or twice a year a chemical test determines levels of pollutants building up. Normally, two or three seasons will pass, before the oil requires changing.

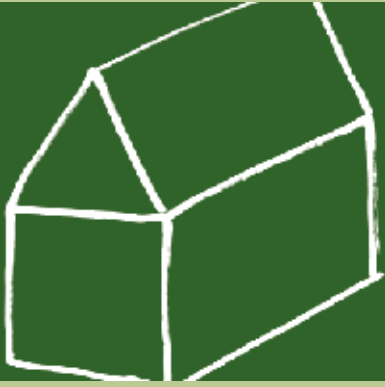
9. Use the experts

There is no substitute for expert advice, readily available nowadays on the Internet. There is a Composting Association with local members close at hand to give advice. Lubrication Engineers, both independent and from manufacturing companies, can give advice on machinery, lubricants, and fuels.

10. Take the initiative, and take some pride in your efforts

Recycling is not straightforward, it takes time and commitment to carry out successfully. Your efforts will be recognised and highly commended by your members and employers. Your team will buy into the effort also, and take pride in doing so. There are many positives.

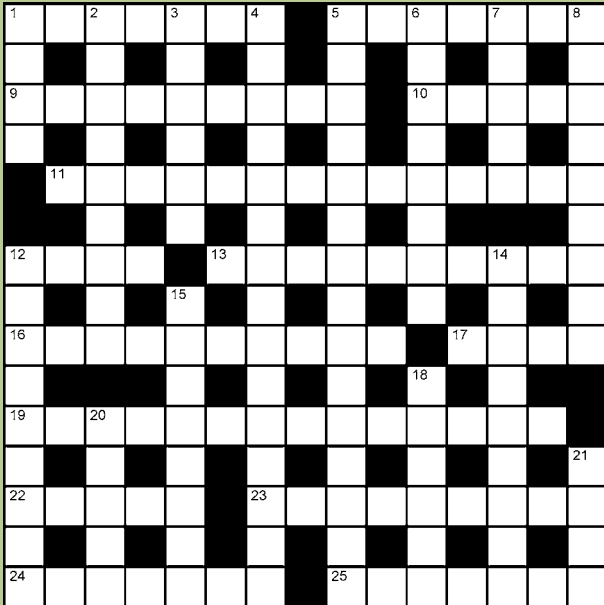




in the shed

Our monthly puzzle page to keep you entertained when you're forced indoors..

CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Accumulation of unfinished tasks (7)
- 5 Marine debris, especially that which does not sink (7)
- 9 Anti-inflammatory drug, analgesic (9)
- 10 Imperfection; responsibility (5)
- 11 Geological feature close to the town of Bushmills, Northern Ireland (6,8)
- 12 Student who studies excessively (4)
- 13 Manufactured in such a way as to be available for reuse (10)
- 16 Group of delegates; fee paid as a percentage (10)
- 17 Satisfaction, usually malicious (4)
- 19 Food ingredient from which hydrogen bonds are eliminated (11,3)
- 22 Be identical to (5)
- 23 Early mechanical version of what is now MIDI data (5,4)
- 24 Infection also called lockjaw (7)
- 25 Baked dish using layered pasta (7)

Down

- 1 Minor interruption, usually of little consequence (4)
- 2 Shaped like a cross (9)
- 3 Part of the trachea containing vocal cords (6)
- 4 Is great for pests (anag.) (2-6,7)
- 5 Competition based on imaginary teams, influenced by real events (7,8)
- 6 In a coarse, contemptible manner (8)
- 7 Derogatory name for American Indian woman (5)
- 8 chloride, a volatile solvent (9)
- 12 Plant adapted to arid conditions, able to store water (9)
- 14 In Australia, a stagnant pool of water (9)
- 15 Athletic contest consisting of two events (8)
- 18 Detestable (6)
- 20 Of trains, to transfer to a different track; minor accident (5)
- 21 Conduit for carrying away smoke (4)

QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

1. Ann Callaway represented Great Britain in the 1984 Olympics in the women's eight rowing team, but what is her other claim to fame?
2. Who won a gold medal in the 100 metres breaststroke at the 1980 Olympics in Moscow?
3. Only one British athlete won a medal in the track and field events in the 1976 Olympics. This was in the Men's 10,000 metres. Who won this medal?
4. As a result of finishing fifth in the 1980 Winter Olympics figure skating competition, Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean gave up their jobs in order to skate full-time. What were their previous jobs?
5. Linford Christie won a gold medal representing Great Britain in the 100 metres at the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, but what country was he born in?
6. Who won the gold medal in the heptathlon in the 2000 Olympics?
7. What colour medal did Amir Khan win in the lightweight boxing tournament at the 2004 Olympics?
8. Who won a silver medal in the men's javelin event at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta?
9. Sean Kerly, Imran Sherwani and Ian Taylor were all members of Great Britain's gold-medal winning team in the 1988 Olympics in Seoul. In which sport?

					A		5	0	7	8	B		
8		B	3	C		A	D	F		1	0		
3		C	5	9					7	F	A		
					0	8		4	9	6	5	3	
5	A	7			0	2	1	C		D	6		
1					3	6					5		
0	2		8		F		3	9	6		C		
	6	3	A	B	1	5		7	0	E		9	
	1	2	4	8	3	0	C	F		5	D		
		A		B	D	F	8			C	1	0	
	C						7	3				2	
	D	5			1	C	9	4			3	8	7
C		D	9	6	7		F	2					
7	3		A						5	2	E	D	
	B	2		D	3	C			8	4	0	9	
	5	0	A		2	9		3					

MONSTER SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 4x4 box contains the numbers 0 to 9 and the letters A to E.

		8		2		7						
5												
4		6	1						7	9		
	5	9				3						
7					8						3	
				7				5	6			
1	9					2	3				4	
											1	
				3		5		2				

SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 9 box shape contains the numbers 1 to 9.

Puzzle Answers on page 60

BUYERS' GUIDE



All-weather practice tee at St Andrews Links

All-weather surfaces for golf

Synthetic turf is now widely accepted as a highly cost-effective means of delivering good looking, high performing, low maintenance playing surfaces and high footfall areas on golf courses throughout the year.

Major factors behind this acceptance are the huge advances made over the past decade in the quality, durability and construction of the material, which has moved close to natural turf in terms of its appearance, its feel and the way that the surface reacts to the striking of a golf ball.

However, golf Course Managers and greenkeepers need to be aware that synthetic turf does vary in quality and that it is essential that the appropriate type and specification of material are selected for the project being undertaken.

Additionally, long-term playability, durability and appearance depends also on the level of care and professionalism applied to the planning, preparation and installation of the surface, no matter whether it is for a golf course tee, putting green, practice tee or pathway.

Ensuring that you get the optimum all-weather surface for your requirements does not have to be a lottery.

Best advice is to deal only with a reputable firm that has a proven track record and is able to provide sound references and recommendations from existing customers. Any company worth its salt will be happy to supply you with a current user list or direct you to its website where such a list can be found. The website should tell you also if a company has been awarded official supplier status by a reputable golf organisation such as the PGA or EGU.

Spending a little time and effort on initial research is likely to save a great deal of time and money in the long run.

www.huxleygolf.co.uk

BUYERS GUIDE CATEGORIES

- AERATION
- AGRONOMY
- ALL WEATHER SURFACES
- ANTI-SLIP
- BRIDGES
- CLOTHING/FOOTWEAR
- CONSTRUCTION
- DE SILTING
- DRAINAGE
- GRINDERS
- IRRIGATION
- IRRIGATION CONSULTANTS
- LAKE CONSTRUCTION LINERS
- PUMPS
- RUBBER CRUMB
- SLEEPERS
- SOIL FOOD WEB
- TOP DRESSING
- TREE MOVING
- TREE CLEARANCE
- TURF
- VERTIDRAINING HIRE
- WASTE/WASHWATER TREATMENT

Want to sell
Second Hand
Machinery?

Advertise all your machines
For only £30 per month

www.bigga.org.uk/classifieds

Or call Kirstin on
01347 833800

AERATION

Garfitts
INTERNATIONAL LTD

For better penetration
TINES'R'US

Order on-line:
www.tines.co.uk

email: sales@tines.co.uk
Tel: 0114 2513344

AERATION

HYDROJECT
AERATION AND CHEMICAL
INJECTION SERVICE
(WITH NO SURFACE DISTURBANCE)
KEITH DRIVER
(SPORTSTURF CONTRACTOR)
Tel: 01273 679994 Mobile: 07958 532008
124 Warren Road, Woodingdean, Brighton BN2 6DB

Topturf
irrigation (service) Ltd

TOPTURF IRRIGATION
IS THE LEADING DEALER
INSTALLER & SERVICING AGENT
FOR OTTERBINE BAREBO
AERATION EQUIPMENT
2006, 2007 & 2008

Call us on 0044 (0) 870 8720081
www.ttirrigation.co.uk

AGRONOMY

B Jamieson Golf Advisors Ltd

Bruce Jamieson Golf Advisors Ltd, is an established company offering expert advice on:

- Golf Course maintenance
- Tournament preparation & presentation
- Machinery selection
- Budgeting
- Staff recruitment
- Soil & turf analysis
- Establishment of new golf courses

Contact: **Bruce Jamieson**
Forth House, Bracknell Lane, Hartley Wintney, Hants, RG27 8QP
Telephone: 01252 844847
Email: bruce.jamieson@btconnect.com www.bjgolf.co.uk

ALL WEATHER SURFACES

Huxley Golf
PREMIER ALL-WEATHER SURFACES FOR GOLF



Huxley Practice Tee at St Andrews Links

Top quality practice tees, golf course tees, putting & pitching greens, pathways, patios, cart tracks and lawns professionally designed and installed.

Tel: 01962 733222
sales@huxleygolf.co.uk
www.huxleygolf.com

PGA
Official Supplier

ANTI - SLIP



GRIP CLAD
ANTI-SLIP STAIR & FLOOR SURFACES

GRP Anti-Slip Panels

www.gripclad.co.uk
Email: enquiries@gripclad.co.uk
Tel: 023 8040 4952
Fax: 023 8040 2563

Visit www.bigga.org.uk and check out the latest chat from the greenkeeping industry



BRIDGES

LOVELL.D.K.
MAKING IT EASY

42 Admers Crescent, Gunns Farm, Liphook Hants, GU30 7HP

The all new PORTABLE DITCH CROSSING

- No more wear or damage
- No more repair before and after ditch
- Your fairways stay the same

Call David on 01428 727 685
or email: david@lovelldk.fsnet.co.uk

OTHER BRIDGES AVAILABLE

ADVERTISE HERE

from as little as £250 for a FULL 6 MONTHS, full colour, please call Kirstin on 01347 833 832 or email kirstin@bigga.co.uk

CLOTHING / FOOTWEAR




FAMOUS SCOTTISH GREENKEEPER WEAR

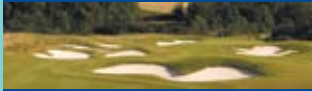
Europe's Leading Suppliers of Clothing & Footwear for Professional Greenkeepers

CONTACT US FOR FREE CATALOGUE
Tel. 01334 653733 Fax. 01334 653553
sales@hoggs.co.uk
Online Store www.gkwear.co.uk

CONSTRUCTION



M J ABBOTT
LIMITED



- GOLF COURSE & SPORTSGROUND CONSTRUCTION
- RENOVATION & MAINTENANCE
- IRRIGATION SYSTEMS
- LAND DRAINAGE SCHEMES
- WATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

Tel. 01722 716361
www.mjabbott.co.uk



Delta Golf
2000 Limited

Construction • Remodelling
Water Features

Tel: 01604 468908
Fax: 01604 474853
www.deltagolf2000.co.uk

180 Ruskin Road, Kingsthorpe, Northampton NN2 7TA



John Greasley
Specialists in Golf Course Construction

JOHN GREASLEY LIMITED

"Ashfield House" • 1154 Melton Road
Syston • Leicester • LE7 2HB

Tel: 0116 269 6766
Mobile: 07836 553899
Fax: 0116 269 6866

DE-SILTING

**Why dredge it!
We will pump it.**

- Ponds
- Water Courses
- Lakes

Your project problem is my challenge!

Tel: JEX PLANT UK LTD 01945 420404
MOB: 07768 234336

WEBSITE: www.jexplantukltd.co.uk
Email: bossjex@btinternet.com

NATURAL ENGLAND APPROVED CONTRACTOR

DRAINAGE

SPEEDCUT
CONTRACTORS LTD

SPORTSTURF

Construction
Drainage
Renovation
Sandslitting

Contact: Kevin Smith
OXFORD 01865 331479



Turfdry

Golf Course Drainage

Survey / Design / Installation / Greens / Fairways / Bunkers / Complete Courses
Plastic Pipe / Turfdry Drainage System

For fast and friendly Nationwide Service

Contact Melvyn Taylor: 01283 551417
07836 259133 / melvyn@turfdry.com

www.turfdry.com



Duncan Ross LTD
Sportsturf Drainage Specialists

DESIGN : INSTALLATION : MAINTENANCE

Pitch Construction • Piped Drainage Systems
Sand Slitting • Blec Vibro Sand Banding
Koro Surfacing • Vertidrainage • Topdressing • Overseeding

Appley Bridge, Wigan, Lancs WN6 9DT
t 01257 255321 f 01257 255327
e office@duncanrosslandrainage.co.uk
www.duncanrosslandrainage.co.uk

Look at the latest...
Second Hand Machinery
...for sale
www.bigga.org.uk/classifieds

Scotland Based

Meiklem Drainage Contractors Ltd

Sportsturf Drainage Specialists

Golf Courses - Sportsfields
Drainage * Construction
* Slitting/Banding

Contact Meiklem Drainage on:
T: 01383 830217
M: 07808 897 300
E: Meiklem@btopenworld.com

DRAINAGE

PHILIP DIXON
Contractors Ltd Est. 1978
Sportsturf Drainage Specialists

Golf Course • Sportsfield
Drainage • Construction • Renovation
Slitting/Banding • Vertidrainage
Groundbreaker • Sand Master
Topdressing • Overseeding
Spraying • Cultivation

Tel: 01772 877289
Fax: 01772 877479 (Preston, Lancs)
www.dixondrainage.co.uk

Traditional
drainage and
Lytag banding
of greens and fairways

North Staffs
IRRIGATION



Tel: 01785 812706
E: NSIrrigation@aol.com
www.northstaffsirrigration.co.uk

AFT

AFT Trenchers Ltd

AFT 45

For compact tractors from 20hp

With chain or slitting wheel, augers or conveyor to quickly install drainage systems, pipes or cables as and when needed.

Tel: +44(0)1787 311811
Email: info@trenchers.co.uk
www.trenchers.co.uk

GRINDERS

LISTER WILDER

STAY SHARP IN 2009
FREE BACK LAPPING PASTE
WITH EVERY RE-GRIND



Worth £40
4.5Kg
10lb tub

Ashford: 01233 619 290
Cirencester: 01285 652 272
Devises: 01380 730 003

Ockham: 01483 286 837
Oxford: 01491 838 388
Reading: 01189 884 888

BUYERS' GUIDE

IRRIGATION

Key Sponsorship

Making a difference to
greenkeeper education



To find out more,
Call Rosie on 01347 833800



Independent Professional
Irrigation, Golf Courses,
Bowling Greens, Sports,
Racecourses, Gardens

- Design/Advice
- New Installations
- Contracting
- Supply & Sales
- Servicing
- Service Contracts
- System Upgrades
- PC Systems

Tel. 01765 602175 or 01765 690598

Fax 01765 603488

Email: sales@par4.co.uk

www.par4.co.uk



Area Dealer



Heron

Specialist in the design and
manufacture of Irrigation
Controllers



Stand alone or PC operated

01903 724343

www.heron-electric.com

LAKE CONSTRUCTION LINERS



Liners for lakes, ponds and
storage lagoons from the
UK's leading contractor



Comprehensive advice
regarding design and
construction of water areas

Tel: 01206 262676

www.geosynthetic.co.uk

Look at the latest...

Second Hand Machinery

...for sale

www.bigga.org.uk/classifieds

PUMPS



ITT Lowara

Lowara Quality Pumps &
Variable Speed Drives.

T: 01297 630230

F: 01297 630270

E: lowaraukenquiries@itt.com

www.lowara.co.uk

Engineered for life

RUBBER CRUMB

The use of RUBBER CRUMB on
grass as top dressing has been
granted a PATENT in the UK and
Ireland under Number EP0788301B1

**TEBBUTT ASSO.
ARE THE LICENSEES**
with CROWN III rubber crumb Turf
Reinforcement, the licensed product

Contact Tebbutt Asso.
on 01253 342003 or Fax 01253 346644
e-mail: tebbuttassociates@tiscali.co.uk
www.tebbuttassociates.co.uk

Want to sell
Second Hand
Machinery?

Advertise all your machines
For only £30 per month

www.bigga.org.uk/classifieds

Or call Kirstin on
01347 833800

TopTurf Irrigation Engineering Ltd
Hunter TORO Count on it.

LEADING THE WAY IN IRRIGATION

- DESIGN
- INSTALLATION
- SERVICING

FOR GOLF COURSES, STADIA,
RACECOURSES, BOWLING GREENS,
PRIVATE GARDENS & LAKES.

Please call 0870 8720081
www.ttirrigation.co.uk

T&G IRRIGATION

Design & installation of irrigation
systems for all sportsturf &
landscaping projects.

Phone: 01427 874200
Fax: 01427 875333

Harrogate week

EDUCATION
17 - 21 January 2010

EXHIBITION
19 - 21 January 2010

www.harrogateweek.org.uk

To advertise within
Greenkeeper International

please contact Kirstin on

01347 833 832

or email

kirstin@bigga.co.uk

Advertising rates:

1/4 page - £570

1/2 page - £790

Full page - £1500

ADVERTISE HERE

from as little as **£250**

for a **FULL 6 MONTHS**,

full colour, please call

Kirstin on 01347 833 832

or email

kirstin@bigga.co.uk

IRRIGATION CONSULTANTS

irritech limited

Independent Irrigation Consultants

Specialising in:-

- Existing system evaluation
- System design & upgrade
- Project management

Contact Roger Davey on:

01823 690216

www.irritechlimited.co.uk

TORO Irrigation

**LIQUID ASSET
MANAGEMENT**

Call Lely: 01480 226848 or
email: irrigation.uk@lely.com

www.toro.com

Visit www.bigga.org.uk

and check out the
latest chat
from the
greenkeeping
industry



**Design
Installation
Service**
Irrigation supplies

**North Staffs
IRRIGATION**

Tel: 01785 812706
E: NSIrrigation@aol.com
www.northstaffsirrigation.co.uk

TORO **Hunter**

SLEEPERS

RAILWAY SLEEPERS

Quality Guaranteed

- New or used
- Hard or softwood
- Crossing timbers

Fineturf Products
TEL: 01702 338686

SOIL FOOD WEB



Symbio provides the know how and biology to develop and manage healthy soil. Degrade thatch, reduce surface disruption, fertiliser, fungicides, water and wetting agents.

Tel: 01428 685762
email: fineturf@symbio.co.uk

TOP DRESSINGS

Banks Amenity Products Ltd.

FENDRESS™ TOP DRESSINGS & ROOTZONES.
DRESSINGS FOR FAIRWAYS AND TEES.
SCREENED FENSOIL, LOAM & TOPSOIL.
BUNKER SAND & PATHWAY MATERIALS.
01858 464346 / 433003
www.banksamenity.co.uk

ADVERTISE HERE

from as little as £250
for a **FULL 6 MONTHS**,
full colour, please call
Kirstin on **01347 833 832**
or email
kirstin@bigga.co.uk



Producers of quality Top dressings, Specialist sands, Rootzone soils, Grit, Gravel and Pathway materials for Golf Courses, Playing Fields and Sports Pitches
Cowbog, New Pittsligo, Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire, AB43 6PR
Tel: 01771 653777
email: sales@lovie.co.uk
www.lovie.co.uk

TREE MOVING

Garstang Golf Club

TREE MOVING SERVICES

Call John on:
07718 782146

To advertise within
Greenkeeper International
please contact Kirstin on

01347 833 832

or email

kirstin@bigga.co.uk

Advertising rates:

1/4 page - £570

1/2 page £790

Full page - £1500

Look at the latest...
Second Hand Machinery
...for sale
www.bigga.org.uk/classifieds

ADVERTISE HERE

from as little as £250
for a **FULL 6 MONTHS**,
full colour, please call
Kirstin on **01347 833 832**
or email
kirstin@bigga.co.uk

TURF



20 years of golf turf experience
5 golf grades including high bent Greens on USGA rootzone, RTF for stabilisation/drought tolerance, Wildflower Turf, and new Low Maintenance turf
Tel: 01904 448675
www.turf.co.uk

TURF



growers of fine turf

Specialist Growers of Turf for Golf Courses

Rootzone Turf for Greens
Grown on USGA rootzone, top-dressed throughout the year, and mown at 6mm.
Predominantly bent sward

Turf for Tees, Surrounds, Approaches and Fairways
Various mixtures including ryegrass/fescue, 100% fescue, and bent/fescue grown on sandy loam topsoil.

NEW for 2009
Turf for bunker revetting and bunker lining.
Tees supplied and laid, with optional laser grading.

Tel: 01652 678 000
www.tillersturf.co.uk

VERTIDRAINING HIRE

WORTH DRAINING

VERTI-DRAIN HIRE 2.5 & 1.6M
2M & 1.5M GROUNDBREAKER FOR HIRE
SAND SPREADING & OVERSEEDING
TOP DRESSING • SPRAYING
Distance no object
Tel/Fax: 01476 550266
Mobile: 07855 431120
Email: worthdraining@talktalk.net
www.worth-draining.com

PETER MANNINGTON



Professional Verti-Drain and Earthquaking Contractor

Experienced operator, competitive prices and reliable service
Tel/Fax Peter on 01580 861211
or Mobile 07850 612061
1 White Horse Cottages, Silverhill, Hurst Green, Ectingham, East Sussex TN19 7QA

WASTE/WASHWATER TREATMENT

Hydrotech Solutions

- Golf Machinery Wash Water Treatment
- Positive Filtration – Non-Biological
- 200 + Systems Installed Worldwide
- Simple, Low Cost Installation
- Low Running Costs

Tel: 01925 758099

Fax: 01925 757519

www.grassgrabber.com

Email: info@hydrotechsolutionsltd.co.uk

Visit www.bigga.org.uk

and check out the latest chat from the greenkeeping industry



Harrogate week

EDUCATION

17 - 21 January 2010

EXHIBITION

19 - 21 January 2010

www.harrogateweek.org.uk

VERTIDRAINING HIRE

Want to sell Second Hand Machinery?

Advertise all your machines
For only £30 per month

www.bigga.org.uk/classifieds

Or call Kirstin on
01347 833800

Waste2Water

BIOLOGICAL VEHICLE & EQUIPMENT WASH-OFF SYSTEMS

ESD Waste2Water Europe Ltd.

Tel: 01782 373 878

Fax: 01782 373 763

E-mail: info@waste2water.com

Web: www.waste2water.com

FORMAL MEETINGS – PART ONE

During your course of employment it may be the case that you are asked to attend the following types of meetings: Formal disciplinary meetings, Formal grievance hearings or Appeal meetings or it may be the case that one of your work colleagues asks you to attend with them to the types of meetings detailed above as their 'companion'.

In this article we will discuss what happens during the disciplinary process.

In subsequent articles we describe what happens during grievance hearings. In the third and final article in the series, we describe the role of the companion who can accompany someone at a disciplinary or grievance hearing. A formal disciplinary meeting may be arranged if your employer feels that there are issues with:

- Your performance (how you do your job, how you fulfil your role, your capabilities in your role)
- Your conduct (how you behave at work, your attitude, compliance with instructions and procedures, how you treat other people at work including customers)
- Your timekeeping and your attendance

Informing you of the disciplinary meeting - your employer should provide you with a letter inviting you to attend a disciplinary meeting. This letter should let

you know what the issues/'allegations' are, the date, time and location of the meeting. It will also let you know that the outcome of the meeting may be of a disciplinary nature and that you are entitled to be accompanied (the role of the companion will be covered in a future article). If you receive such a letter then you should prepare yourself for the meeting by thinking about what questions you may be asked, what happened, the incidents, concerns, issues that are going to be discussed.

It may be the case that an informal or investigatory meeting took place prior to you receiving the invite letter. If this is the case then the issues discussed with you at this informal meeting will probably be discussed with you again, in more depth. It may be the case that you have been suspended off site on full pay. An employer will suspend a member of staff where the issues/allegations are of a serious nature. The suspension allows you time to think about the issues and allows your employer time to investigate issues further.

The meeting - you will be asked a series of questions at the disciplinary meeting and you should be given the opportunity to answer. You may be shown documentation or you may have been given documentation prior to the meeting that relates to the issues/concerns being discussed.

The decision - a decision should only take place when you have been asked questions and you are given the opportunity to respond. It may be the case that your employer has a break and then returns to the meeting having made a decision or your employer may wish to consider the issues overnight before making a decision.

If a formal warning is being issued to you then you should be given a letter stating the reasons for the warning, the level of warning, how long the warning lasts for, and you will have the right of appeal against the decision.

Appeal - if you have appealed a disciplinary decision then you will be invited by letter to discuss this in an appeal hearing. This letter should let you know the date, time and location of the meeting. It will also tell you are entitled to be accompanied.

The meeting - at an appeal meeting you will be asked to detail the specifics of why you are appealing. You will have written a letter prior to this, and your employer will want you to expand upon the information in your letter.

The decision - your employer will write to you with the decision/outcome of your appeal meeting.



intheshed answers

QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. She is the wife of Sir Stephen Redgrave
2. Duncan Goodhew
3. Brendan Foster (winning bronze)
4. Insurance clerk and policeman
5. Jamaica
6. Denise Lewis
7. Silver
8. Steve Backley
9. Hockey

CROSSWORD

B	A	C	K	L	O	G		F	L	O	T	S	A	M
L		R		A		O		A		A		Q		E
I	B	U	P	R	O	F	E	N		F	A	U	L	T
P		C	Y		A		T		I		A		H	
	G	I	A	N	T	S	C	A	U	S	E	W	A	Y
		F		X		T		S		H				L
S	W	O	T		R	E	C	Y	C	L	A	B	L	E
U		R		B		R		F		Y		I		N
C	O	M	M	I	S	S	I	O	N		G	L	E	E
		C		A		T		O		O		L		
U	N	S	A	T	U	R	A	T	E	D	F	A	T	
L		H		H		I		B		I		B		F
E	Q	U	A	L		P	I	A	N	O	R	O	L	L
N		N		O		E		L		U		N		U
T	E	T	A	N	U	S		L	A	S	A	G	N	E

MONSTER SUDOKO

2	9	1	4	F	D	A	E	6	5	0	3	7	8	B	C
8	7	B	6	3	C	2	5	A	D	E	F	9	1	0	4
3	0	C	5	9	B	4	6	8	2	1	7	D	F	E	A
A	E	F	D	7	0	1	8	C	B	4	9	6	5	2	3
5	A	7	B	E	9	0	2	4	1	C	8	3	D	6	F
1	F	9	C	8	3	6	7	D	E	A	2	0	4	5	B
0	2	E	8	5	4	F	D	3	9	B	6	A	C	7	1
D	6	4	3	C	A	B	1	5	F	7	0	E	2	9	8
9	1	6	2	4	8	7	3	0	C	F	A	5	B	D	E
4	3	A	7	B	6	D	F	2	8	5	E	C	9	1	0
B	C	8	F	0	E	5	9	1	7	3	D	4	6	A	2
E	D	5	0	2	1	C	A	9	4	6	B	F	3	8	7
C	8	D	9	6	7	E	4	F	0	2	1	B	A	3	5
7	4	3	1	A	F	8	0	B	6	9	5	2	E	C	D
6	B	2	E	D	5	3	C	7	A	8	4	1	0	F	9
F	5	0	A	1	2	9	B	E	3	D	C	8	7	4	6

SQUIGGLY SUDOKO

9	8	1	2	3	7	6	4	5
5	2	7	9	6	4	1	3	8
4	3	6	1	5	8	2	7	9
6	5	9	4	2	3	8	1	7
7	1	2	5	8	6	4	9	3
3	4	8	7	9	1	5	6	2
1	9	5	6	7	2	3	8	4
2	6	3	8	4	9	7	5	1
8	7	4	3	1	5	9	2	6

Letters



Please email your notes to:
scott@bigga.co.uk or melissa@bigga.co.uk

ARTICLE CORRECTION

Dear Readers

Following the article published last month 'Soil Wetting Agents' on page 40 of the May edition of GI, the STRI would like to bring the following to readers attention. The article was a supplement put together to accompany a review completed for The R&A in 2007, identifying the modes of action of wetting agents available in the UK Amenity market for use on golf courses. The review was completed using product labels and was not as a result of any testing carried out by the STRI. Information on products and Distributors was correct at the time of writing but have changed in the intervening two years.

Please see the correct table below:

Product	Distributor	Straight/Blend	Chemistry	Advertised Uses
Advantage pellet	Farmura	Blend	Non-ionic surfactant	b, e
Alleviate	Sherriffs Amenity	Blend	Non-ionic surfactant and organosilicone	b, e
Aqua-Aid	Vitax	Blend	Non-ionic surfactant	e, f, g
AquaMaxx	Vitax	Blend	Non-ionic surfactant	a, e, f
Aqueduct	Farmura	Blend	Non-ionic surfactant	b, e
Aquifer	Vitax	Blend	Non-ionic surfactant	a, f, g
Aqua - zorb	Turftech/Sherriff Amenity	Blend	Non-ionic surfactant	a, b, d, g
Award Osprey	Aitkens/Avoncrop	Blend	Block copolymer	a, b, e, f
Breaker Advance	Rigby Taylor	Blend	Non-ionic surfactant	a, b, e, f
Breaker Curative	Rigby Taylor	Blend	Non-ionic surfactant	b, d
Clearing	Vitax	Blend	Non-ionic surfactant	c, e
Correct OARS	Tower Chemicals	Blend	Non-ionic soil surfactant and organic solvent	d, e, f
Dewcure	Headland	Straight	Non-ionic surfactant	e
Dispatch	Farmura	Blend	Non-ionic surfactant	e, f, g
Excel	Sherriff Amenity	Blend	Non-ionic surfactant and organosilicone	b, e
Fifty 90	Farmura	Blend	Non-ionic surfactant	a, b, e, f, g
H ₂ Pro	Scotts	Blend	Non-ionic surfactant	a, b, e, f, g
Info XL	Headland	Straight	Organosilicone	b, e
Noburn	Novozymes	-	Yucca plant extract	a, e, f
OARS [®] Curative	Vitax	Blend	Non-ionic surfactant and organic solvent	b, d, e, f
Percol-8	Vitax	Blend	Non-ionic surfactant	e, f, g
Primer Select	Farmura	Straight	Block copolymer	a, b, e, f, g
Revolution	Farmura	Straight	Modified block Copolymer	a, b, e, f, g
TricureAD	Headland	Blend	Non-ionic surfactant	a, b, e, f, g
Ultraflo	Vitax	Straight	Non-ionic surfactant	a, c, e
XL Fairway	Headland	Straight	Organosilicone	c, e

Table 1: Example soil wetting products, modes of action and distributor. Neither the list of products or the distributors is exhaustive. Other products are available and each product may be available from other distributors.

- a – To treat localised dry patch preventatively
- b – To treat localised dry patch curatively
- c – To manage fairy ring
- d – To strip away organic coatings on sand grains
- e – Aid water penetration/dew removal
- f – Help ensure even water distribution in the rootzone
- g – Reduce irrigation requirements

Please note the information contained in the above table has been taken from the respective product labels. STRI does not accept any responsibility for the accuracy of these claims

This information sheet is of a general nature and is intended only to outline the basic information. Such information is not intended to constitute a specification or comprehensive guidance in relation to any project/subject which should only be undertaken after consultation with those holding appropriate qualifications. The STRI employs persons so qualified who can provide advice and/or relevant specifications. The STRI accept no responsibility or liability for any claims arising from work carried out pursuant to this leaflet.

If you require any further information, please contact:

Dr Ruth Mann
Head of Turfgrass Protection
STRI Ltd
 01274 518913
ruth.mann@stri.co.uk



Head Greenkeeper

Salary £26,000 - £28,000



An exciting opportunity has arisen for a Head Greenkeeper at Botley Park Hotel, Golf & Country Club. A 130 bedroom hotel situated in 176 acres of mature parkland with 18 hole championship golf course and academy practice facilities. The thriving golf operation consists of stay and play, golf break residents, casual green fees and 500 members.

You'll make sure every golfer, whether member or guest, playing on the championship golf course has an exceptional experience by presenting the course to its' highest standard at all times. Managing a team of Greenkeepers, you will be able to demonstrate the ability to lead, motivate and effectively manage a team. You should be able to demonstrate high levels of initiative, be motivated and enthusiastic with sound administrative ability, have excellent communication skills and be IT literate. It is vital that the successful candidate works closely with the Hotel Management and has a modern and realistic approach to green-keeping.

The position would also require experience to include bunker refurbishment and drainage installation, knowledge of irrigation equipment and modern watering techniques, be knowledgeable of current Health and Safety regulations, machinery maintenance and record keeping and hold PA 1, 2 and 6a spraying certificates. A knowledge of USGA spec greens is desirable but not essential. Candidates must be eligible to live and work in the UK.

Closing date for applications: Friday 26 June 2009.

Deputy Course Manager

Five Lakes Hotel, Golf, Country Club & Spa is a 194 bedroom stylish resort hotel with two 18 hole golf courses, a driving range and practice facilities. Five Lakes also has the pleasure in hosting the PGA Euro Pro Tour each year.

The successful candidate will already be a deputy course manager at a similar golf club or a green keeper ready to make that step up. They must have NVQ level 2 (preferably level 3) or equivalent in sports turf management, PA1 PA2 and PA6 qualification. Basic knowledge of irrigation systems is essential along with a sound knowledge of H&S legislation.

If you feel you are the right candidate for the role please send your CV and covering letter including salary expectation to:

celia.hills@fivelakes.co.uk

See careers at www.fivelakes.co.uk/careers for more details
The closing date for applications is 12th June 2009.



BROOKMANS PARK GOLF CLUB

Is one of Hertfordshire's most prestigious golf clubs with over 700 members and a busy golfing calendar requires:

Course Manager

The successful applicant will have the following:

- Ability to work with and manage a team developing skills of staff
- Excellent communication and Interpersonal skill.
- Qualified to N.V.Q. 3 or above
- Full range of spraying and chainsaw certificates
- Up to date on all health and safety aspects
- Experience and proven track record in producing a high standard of course presentation throughout the year
- The ability to produce up to date work scheduling, coordinating works with the General Manager and Greens Committee.
- Produce and maintain accurate budgeting for the greens department.

Closing date:
21st June

Please send your C.V. along with a covering letter, stating your salary expectation to:
The General Manager, Brookmans Park Golf Club, Hatfield
Herts AL9 7AT



On the Soapbox

A new vehicle for people within the industry to express their viewpoint

I have been asked many times why I cut so low and put the grass plant under so much stress.

There are several reasons. As a golfer, I always like to putt on fast smooth greens. You tend to find this type of green on links and heathland courses with their sandy fescue and bent dominated sward. As soon as you come inland to clay based, Poa Annua dominated swards, the speeds drop dramatically.

I have always been amazed that the educational bodies in greenkeeping seem to suggest the same height of cut wherever your course and whatever your soil type. Looking at it logically, if you want a faster green, cut it shorter.

Simple!

Or so you would think.

The longer the grass plant, the more resistance or drag there is on the ball roll. The ball will sit in to the turf and not on top of it. The majority of courses in England suffer from this.

The dominant species on parkland soils is meadow grass which will produce a 'snakey' ball roll if cut above 3mm.

Cutting Poa Annua at 2mm maximises its potential. Agronomists and research bodies focus on the negative aspects of Poa. It was actually in the weed idents when I was at college!

You hear that it is thatchy, shallow rooting, disease ridden grass and will burn out under stress in the summer months. I disagree. It tolerates very close mowing under all kinds of environmental conditions.

Roots will only be shallow if the soil is compacted, as with all grasses. They will go down to the bottom of a verti-drain tine if given the chance. In fact the density of roots in the top 100mm (4 inches for you oldies), is quite impressive.

Disease is not a problem as long as you create a firm surface through pure sand dressings. Poa has the potential to produce the most fantastic surface, only bettered by Creeping Bent, if treated with respect and handled in the right way.

Poa can be your saviour and not your enemy given the chance.

The most important reason for cutting low is to give golfers what they want; fast true greens in all environments.

Fast greens on brand new U.S. specification creeping bent grass are relatively easy to produce. The cultivar A4 has been bred to have a high shoot density under extreme close mowing.

Producing similar results on a pure links green, with the finer grasses dominating the pace of the ball is also easily achievable.

To produce fast greens on a parkland course surrounded by trees is far more challenging. Cutting at 2mm will help you to achieve them.

We all hear the spike bar complaints about the slow pace of the greens. When you want that pay rise or new fairway mower, you are more likely to get what you want if you are giving them what they want, fast greens.

Bewarned though, as with any good green, a solid cultural plan must be in place.

Your plan must be based around these six areas:

1. Aeration. As much as you dare. Especially in the summer. This will give the roots oxygen that it craves at its most stressful time. You will also have better greens for longer in the season.

2. Sanding. No soil, just 100% sand. It is at least as important as aeration. If golfers and mowers didn't compact our greens, as long as we applied enough sand, we would have no need to punch holes in to the greens. Now the golfers would love that!

3. Verti-cutting. Essential on a Poa dominated sward in order to produce an upright grass plant. Equally important on creeping and velvet bent greens. The disturbance theorists are questioning the need for verti-cutting. Think long and hard if you are thinking of heavily reducing or eliminating it. You may regret it later.

4. Overseeding. Pure bent. As often as your budget will allow. This is for greater sward density.

5. Irrigation and fertility. Little and often. The plant must be healthy. Keep them lean but healthy.

6. Cutting. The most important operation that you do. As long as you have the above in place, frequent low cutting is a must for fast greens.

Over the years, a lot of scary stories have been circulated about greens being cut at 2mm.

It's a slippery slope' or 'It's impossible to achieve this for long periods and still have grass left' you will be told.

This is rubbish! Yes, it does need some understanding and yes, it can be intense and hard work, but this is what we as greenkeepers are here for; to give the golfers what they want in a sustainable manner.

There's a lot of talk from bodies such as the R&A and STRI, who want you to eradicate Poa.

Why? As I have already mentioned, Poa can produce the most fantastic surfaces and is sustainable.

Learn about it and understand it. You may not love it but you should certainly respect it. For the vast majority of us, we have no choice.

Anyway, on a meadow parkland environment, what is the indigenous species?

Poa of course!

Looking at it logically, if you want a faster green, cut it shorter



Greg Evans is the Course Manager at Ealing Golf Club. He also runs the Complete Golf Solutions consultancy company, which aims to give greenkeepers advice in going down an aggressive route. He can be contacted on 07951 157208 or by email at: gregevens1973@hotmail.com.

Greg Evans

The views expressed within On The Soapbox are not necessarily those of Greenkeeper International



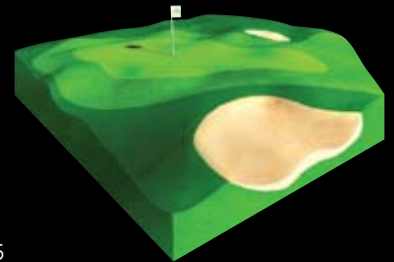
"I'm very impressed with Nomow® - its flexibility, colour, texture and versatility. It allows me to design golf greens that mimic the contours and undulations of a championship golf course, with good speed and realistic borrows. Pitch and chip shots respond realistically to spin and pace. For putting, speed is consistent and true. I highly recommend Nomow®."

Jonathan Gaunt, international golf course architect

nomow[®] GOLF
artificial grass

Stroke of genius

When you install Nomow® Artificial Grass you unlock the ability to play whenever you choose on a surface which simulates grass play closer than any other artificial surface.



With Nomow®, there's no maintenance and no watering. This green plays perfectly in all weathers, wet or dry. No wonder Nomow is fast becoming the professional choice.

Independent tests confirm Nomow's® state-of-the-art performance standards. This advanced putting green has a stimp of 10 to 12 and will retain its consistency and colour throughout 25 years of maintenance-free life.

- Expert installation is guaranteed, so too is impeccable customer service
- The Nomow® team has over 30 years' experience of artificial grass installation
- We work with the most respected professional golf architects and create championship golf courses around the world
- BS7044
- UV stabilised
- Stimp meter 10 -12

Find out more about the advanced technology that has made Nomow a leading name in professional golf.

Call the Nomow® team on **0800 587 0380** for a free, no-obligation quote or visit www.nomow.co.uk

Artificial Grass not Artificial Golf

ACCEPTS A TEE



Nomow® Premier Tee is a non fill artificial grass that accepts a Tee.

Durable and hard wearing to any shape any size.



Environment
Recycling



Flame Repellent

Primo MAXX cuts the time and cost of turf management

In Brief

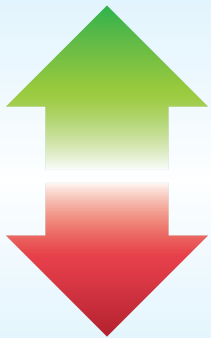
- Primo MAXX application will reduce the time and money spent on mowing turf on fairways and sports grounds – potentially saving over £4250 a year
- Primo MAXX significantly reduces the volume of clippings removed, typically by up to 50%
- Improved turf quality gives a better playing surface = less damage and faster play
- Improved root structure means better drought tolerance and greater stress resistance



Primo MAXX increases the density of quality sports turf, creating a better playing surface. Reducing the hours spent mowing releases time and money for more productive management.

Save time and money with Primo MAXX

LABOUR AVAILABILITY
Up to 20 hours per week



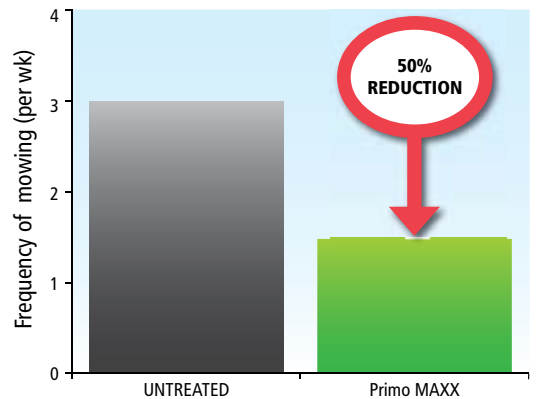
MOWER COSTS
Down £4250 a year

With the cost of running a mower calculated at over £10 an hour, Primo MAXX could save over £4250 a year in lower fuel, maintenance and repair bills – along with the opportunity to cut your carbon footprint with reduced fuel use.

Cutting time spent mowing

Independent user trials with Primo MAXX applications on fairways, conducted by STRI, identified turf managers could typically reduce the frequency of mowing by 50%, whilst still enhancing playing conditions.

Results were consistent under a range of fairway management regimes, often requiring just one cut per week to maintain high quality – with reduced evidence of clippings left on the surface. Boxed off clippings were reduced by up to 65% (below).



Source: Observational reports of turf managers undertaking Primo MAXX fairway trials

